

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 308

TUESDAY DECEMBER 28, 2010

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, rate your level of optimism that the CNMI economy will improve next year.

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



50-Mile Hike

Boy scouts are on a five-day mission to hike 50 miles around the island.

LOCAL...Page 6



Red Menace

Rebels threaten more attacks despite looming peace talks with the Philippine government.

ASIA...Page 15



Unruly Gwyneth

Gwyneth Paltrow misbehaves and more as a country star in her new movie.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Father of slain Marine worried about his son's case. **PAGE 2**
New private school to take over Ladera facilities. **PAGE 3**

3 NMI officials go on S. Korea junket

» Investor for failed \$1B casino on Tinian pays for trip
» Neo Gold Wings' land lease revoked since August
» Company owes DPL over \$130K in arrears

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Neo Gold Wings Paradise, whose plan to build a \$1 billion hotel casino on Tinian fizzled out, resulting in its public land lease being revoked in August for non-payment of rent, paid for the trip to South Korea of three CNMI government officials two weeks ago.

Those who went to Korea for a few days for a Dec. 17 "ceremony" hosted by Neo Gold Wings were Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), and Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive director Ignacio "Ike" Demapan.

Dela Cruz, in a phone interview, confirmed that the trip was paid for by Neo Gold Wings.

He said the ceremony was to mark a partnership between Neo Gold Wings and a telecommunications company. He said the investor still wants to pursue its casino project on Tinian.

Ignacio Demapan, in a separate interview, said he could not elaborate on the purpose of the trip, but is optimistic that

See 3 NMI on Page 4

RAINY MONDAY

Motorists traverse the long stretch of Middle Road in Puerto Rico during heavy rains that reduced the visibility in most areas of Saipan yesterday afternoon. Due to the downpour, motorists are urged to be extra cautious.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Tinian, Rota yet to pass 2011 local budgets

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian and Rota have yet to pass their fiscal year 2011 budgets even as the first quarter is now coming to an end, amid further declines in actual revenue from casino

operations.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's budget submission in July reflected \$2.3 million in projected revenue from casino operations for fiscal year 2011.

But the Tinian Legislative Delegation

See BUDGETS on Page 4

The delegation was sidetracked by the CNMI-wide budget, and there were other issues that we also needed to take care of.

—Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian)



Roll with a BlackBerry this Christmas!
Don't go Slow, Go EV-DO



Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3588 • www.iten.net

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

* Terms and conditions apply

Local

Father of slain Marine worried about his son's case

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five months after his son was laid to rest, David M. Santos of Rota said they have yet to get justice for the murder of the late U.S. Marine Corporal Dave Michael M. Santos.

The late corporal was allegedly stabbed in the neck on July 15 this year by a fellow Marine in Marjeh, Helmand Province in Afghanistan, where he was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"It's frustrating and tiring. Even traveling [for the case] is brutal," the father told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday in a phone interview.

David Santos went to North Carolina in November for an Article 32 or preliminary hear-

ing on the case. He said he is disappointed and worried about the status of the case in his son's murder.

He said Cpl. William Dalton is the lone defendant in the case.

"I was thinking that the suspect would be in jail or handcuffed, but when I saw him at the Article 32 hearing, he was still in military uniform, freely walking around. I don't know how the military justice works," said the father, who spent his first Christmas without a son.

David Santos said he received an email on Dec. 22 from the prosecutor, stating that an arraignment is set for Jan. 7 and that the trial may start in April 2011.



Santos

"I was told by the prosecutor that there might be a lesser charge, that it may only be involuntary manslaughter, from the current charge of second-degree murder. Lesser charge means lesser penalty. My son was murdered, and every day, I ask for justice for my son," he said.

He said he was also informed that the defendant may not even testify at the trial.

"I am hoping to hear it directly from him, what he did to my son. Witnesses have been saying different things, and I want to hear from him," he said, adding that he didn't have the chance to even talk to the defendant when they met each

other at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina last month.

The late Marine corporal was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

"I feel even worse hearing about the possibility of a lesser charge and him not testifying," the father added.

The late Marine corporal left behind a wife and a 3-year-old son. He was laid to rest on July 29 on Rota, his birthplace. He last visited the island in April 2009.

Dave Michael Santos was the 13th from the CNMI, and the 37th from the Micronesian region, to die since 2003 while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fund OKs six-year statute of limitation for double dippers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees adopted yesterday a resolution setting a six-year statute limitation on double dippers who want to collect from the Fund.

Double dippers are government retirees who go back to government service. They are

called that because they continue to get their pension while receiving a government salary at the same time.

Under existing law, except for classroom teachers, a government employee could only double-dip for two years. For each year, these double dippers are entitled to a 60-day worth of pension from the Fund on top of the salary they get from the government.

But because many retirees fail to collect or file their claim for these 60-day worth of pensions, some of them go back to the Fund after many years and claim these funds.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said yesterday that a significant number retirees have filed claims with the agency, asking payment for the 60 days that they are allowed to double

dip under the law.

"There are retirees who double dipped in the past, some going back to 10 years and now wanting to claim from the Fund and get paid for the 60 days out of the year that they stopped their pension," explained Villagomez.

He said the recommendation to set the six-year limit was in consultation with the Fund's lawyers.

Villagomez described the adoption of the resolution as the "conservative thing to do" for the Fund.

Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar said the decision to set a time limit for double dippers will allow the agency to set a prudent budget.

He cited as an example an employee of the Public School System who double dipped in 2010 and did not collect the 60 days worth of pension from the Fund, but came back after seven years.

"[In this resolution] the Fund says 'I am sorry but you're already past the six years allowed by law,'" he explained, adding that the approach would also be helpful to retirees as they will become responsible in collecting what is due them on time.

Igisomar said the decision was made following a review and assessment by the Fund's internal auditor of the agency's current practices, policies, and actions.

However, Igisomar said that because there are related cases now pending in court, any ruling may still change the board's policy.

The board recommended to the management to give persons who are retiring complete information as to the benefits they could get as a retired individual.

Fund officials said there was no existing policy or regulation on how many years the agency could approve a double-dipping claim. They believe that by approving the resolution, this will set the policy straight for retirees.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

2011 MVA Signature Events



In order to attract more visitors while stretching their promotional dollar, the MVA plans and coordinates a select number of local events and activities in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. These annual MVA Signature Events also provide an opportunity for the island community to participate and support the tourism industry, whether as competitors or volunteers. The MVA coordinates 12 such events each year, with the support of numerous private sponsors and other government offices.

Don't miss these exciting MVA Signature Events in 2011!

- 7th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival (Feb. 12-13)
- 6th Annual Saipan Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 10K (March 5)
- 10th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship (March 12)
- 22nd Annual Tagaman Triathlon (March 19)
- 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas Food Festival & Beer Garden (May)
- 12th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim (June 11)
- 3rd Annual Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament (June 18)
- 2011 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby (July 29-31)
- 18th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon (Nov. 12)
- 5th Annual Hell of the Marianas – Century Cycle (Dec. 3)
- 9th Annual Christmas in the Marianas (Dec. 17)
- Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run (suspended for 2011)

Get more details about the 2011 Signature Events at www.mymarianas.com.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune



Offering all lines of insurance:

► **Auto Insurance:**
mandatory liability | full coverage

► **Personal or Commercial:**
health | life | accident & disability

► **Property Coverage for:**
home | apartment
rental | commercial lease

General Agents for:



TOKIO MARINE
PACIFIC



Century Insurance
A TanHoldings Company

Joeten Center, Beach Road, Susupe
tel: 234-6267 • fax: 234-5880
e-mail: piui@pacificains.com

New private school to take over Ladera facilities

Energy Division to distribute free CFLs, reusable bags on Thursday

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As part of its energy efficiency and conservation efforts, the Department of Public Works Energy Division Office will distribute free compact fluorescent light bulbs when it hosts Energy Awareness Event this week.

The Energy Awareness Event is scheduled on Thursday, Dec. 30, from 9am to 4pm, and on Friday, Dec. 31, from 9am to 2pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Aside from the free light bulbs, the Energy Division office will also give away free reusable shopping bags as part of its Energy Awareness Project.

All free items will be made available to residential paying customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that will provide a copy of their latest utility bill.

Each customer can get a maximum of three free compact fluorescent light bulbs.

The theme for the event is "Bring in the New Year by Saving Energy" to encourage the public to reduce the effects of global warming by making more energy-efficient choices at home and at work.

"I encourage everyone to be a part of the solution in protecting our environment by simply replacing an incandescent bulb with a qualified energy-efficient Energy Star CFL bulb. Together, we can all make a difference," said Energy Division director Thelma Inos.

During the event, there will be division personnel to answer questions and provide assistance to individuals and families

who want to avail of the Weatherization Assistance Program, the Residential Weatherization Program, and the Energy-Star Rebate Program.

All programs are funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009 and Formula Grant.

Applications for any of the programs may be submitted during the event along with required documents: copy of three most recent CUC bills; copy of three most recent payroll or income stub; copy of home ownership; copy of valid CNMI ID with photo; and copy of latest form 1040 or Annual Income Tax Return.

For more information, contact the Energy Division at 664-4480 or 81.

Fenny Hair Cut Beauty Parlor
Eyelash Extension \$10 • Hair extension 50¢ each
Free Hot Oil for every Perm Service
UV Gel Nail Sculpture Nail Vitreous Nail **50% OFF**
For 1 month only Starts Nov. 25-Dec. 25
Tel.: 235-0393 • Open Daily: 10:00am - 10:00pm
Located across Friendship Ext.

"I want to go shopping!"
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104, Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth will soon have a new private school on island after the Western International School of Excellence confirmed yesterday its plan to open next month at the former Ladera International School of Saipan.

George K. Pangelinan will serve as the school's principal when it opens classes in January.

"Though many public and private schools on the island are now entering third quarter, Western International School of Excellence is taking a bold step to start its classes in the middle of the year," a statement from the school said, adding that WISE aims to provide quality

education to residents and foreign students alike.

Pangelinan, who has many years of educational experiences, said yesterday that there is no better investment that the individual, parents, and the CNMI can make than an investment in education of the highest possible quality.

"It is with this belief that WISE sets high standards to provide quality educational programs that will inspire and challenge students to build competence and creativity to succeed in our global community," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that WISE has qualified and experienced teachers and staff.

The school will start classes from K5 to 9th grade on Jan. 10. Registration will start on Jan. 3

through 14, from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

For a limited time, the school will offer local residents who meet WISE's residency requirements fee waivers on application, registration, and books/related classroom materials. In addition, 50 percent scholarships on tuition are being offered, with some conditions.

Western International School of Excellence is owned by WISE Corp.

Former Ladera

Saipan Tribune learned that the new school will use the facilities of the former Ladera International School located in Fina Sisu on Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi Avenue.

Ladera closed down at the be-

ginning of the school year due to low enrollment.

In an interview with school officials yesterday, it was learned that WISE will also cater to foreign students from South Korea. The first batch of foreign enrollees will be on island next month. The school also absorbed some of the teachers and staff of the former Ladera school.

Because the school facility is still in good condition, including the dormitories and amenities, WISE representatives said a facelift of the campus parking area will be their priority at this time.

For more information on enrollment, call WISE office at 288-2006, or visit WISE's office in Fina Sisu along Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi Avenue.



Saipan's Most Dependable and Reliable Truck!

TACOMA

SALES EVENT!

**ALL TRUCKS
ALL ON SALE AT
CLEARANCE PRICES!**

REGULAR CAB 5SPD
Starting at

\$17,999*



2WD DOUBLE CAB
Starting at

\$23,999*



4X4 ACCESS CAB
Starting at

\$26,999*



4x4 DOUBLE CAB
Starting at

\$28,999*



Sam Kim



Mark Sablan



SALE ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2010!



MICROL CORPORATION

Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: **234-5911** | Fax: **234-6514** | www.microlsaipan.com

*OAC conditions apply. Vehicles not exactly as shown. Not valid with other promotional offers.

Liza Taylor




IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

Fund trustees asked for \$7.9M increase in drawdowns

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Retirement Fund's board of trustees is being asked to increase the agency's drawdown budget from \$54 million last fiscal year to \$62 million in fiscal year 2011. That's an increase of \$7.9 million in projected drawdowns this year.

In fiscal year 2010, the board approved \$54 million in withdrawals

from the Fund's investment portfolio. This was initially set as the amount to be withdrawn in fiscal year 2011.

However, due to the slow collection of employer and employee contributions from the central government and other agencies, Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said the Fund was forced to withdraw a bigger amount from its investments.

"From last fiscal year's \$54 million authorized drawdown, I would like to

request an increase of \$7.9 million to make it \$62 million this fiscal year. Bulk of the change relates to the delayed employer and employee contributions from the central government and agencies," Villagomez told the board yesterday.

The Fund spends an estimated \$15 million every quarter for pensions and other agency obligations.

As of Nov. 30, the Fund's investment portfolio was valued at \$311 million.

Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar opted to defer any action on the requested increase in drawdowns pending the collections to be made by the central government in January, the end of the quarter.

The board also instructed the administrator to submit at its next meeting an assessment as to when the Fund anticipates the exhaustion of its investment assets.

Drawdowns are used to pay for the pension benefit of members and other obligations. Last fiscal year, the Fund noted some \$14 million "savings" in

its projected drawdown as a result of the increase contribution received from the government and remittance of taxes pursuant to the court judgment.

This fiscal year, however, the central government and other agencies have not been as religious in their remittances to the Fund, Villagomez said, putting more pressure on the Fund to drawdown—or liquidate—portions of its investments.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Fund last received the central government's employer contribution in July.

'Tis season for pricey betel nuts in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—In Papua New Guinea, it is not unusual for betel-nut prices to go up at this time of the year in the National Capital District.

The price for one precious green nut is 1 kina [US 40 cents].

Or even up 1.60 kina [US 60 cents] when you consider the street sellers are cutting them in half and selling them at 50 toea [US 20 cents to 80 toea [US 30 cents] each.

This is mainly due to the Mekeo's taking their usual break to replenish stocks up until the New Year.

The Mekeo's from Central Province and the predominant lower coastal

Kerema people from the Gulf Province are the major suppliers for the city.

During this period the Gulf farmers make full use of this period to earn at least a little more for their rural livelihoods.

The wholesale price for a farm-set (25 kilograms) bag of solely green nuts is 405 kina [US\$160].

Whilst the mixed bag of green and yellow nuts are priced around the 385 kina [US\$150] mark per bag.

The yellow nuts can vary between 175 kina [US\$68] and 185 kina [US\$72] per bag.

Basically the Gulf farmers are controlling the market in the city.

Gordons-based betel-nut entre-

preneur Mr. Peter Paiva or popularly known as Papa Tei explains that there is a huge demand right now for the green nut.

Mr. Paiva who manages a gate or a wholesale venue at his residence said that their Gulf farmers make use of the opportunity to raise the price to enjoy something extra for the Christmas and New Year period.

These people are poor subsistence farmers who rely on the sales of betel-nut for their daily needs, he said.

These people are mainly Kameas from villagers like Sori, Nani, Mamumoru, Asibobo, Ipia, Wina, Kepamai and Putai, he added.

NMC

From Page 1

nel committee chair Andrew Orsini, is also being considered.

The board has yet to identify nominees from the college faculty and the Associated Students of NMC.

Saipan Tribune learned that offers will soon be made to the five nominees.

The board adopted Friday a resolution to create the new presidential search committee—the second to be formed after the board reopened the position to get a fresh pool of applicants.

Despite an earlier pronouncement that

it intends to hire a president by the end of January, the college has yet to announce the vacancy or post a notice on the college's website as of yesterday.

The Association of Community College Trustees has already announced on its website that it is recruiting a new president for NMC and will receive applications until Jan. 10. Narcisa Polonio, the ACCT vice-president for research and board leadership services, was listed on the website as the contact person for the position.

The Board of Regents earlier said that NMC will continue to seek ACCT's assistance in the recruitment process for the college's next chief executive offi-

cer. Sources disclosed that the organization had offered its services for free but a minimal cost may be incurred for the background checks on candidates.

ACCT is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond.

NMC has had no permanent president since Jan. 12 when the board suspended, and later terminated, Dr. Carmen Fernandez for violating college policies. A case is pending in court.

NMC has had seven presidents in the last 10 years.

3 NMI

From Page 1

Neo Gold Wings will be able to pursue its casino project on Tinian.

"I am confident that the project will go through," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Ralph Demapan could not be reached for comment.

'Revoked land lease, over \$130,000 debt'

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, when asked for comment yesterday, said the Department of Public Lands has not been recently contacted by Neo Gold Wings about its revoked land lease or its planned investment on Tinian.

"If they are still willing to pursue the project, they haven't communicated that to DPL," he said.

Neo Gold Wings had planned to build an ambitious \$1 billion, six-star hotel casino on a 300-hectare public land on Tinian.

If Neo Gold Wings wants to pursue the project, Babauta said it has to first settle its obligations with DPL—now amounting to over \$130,000 in unpaid monthly land rental plus interest.

DPL will also require Neo Gold Wings to negotiate a new land lease deal, Babauta said.

Another condition is to require Neo Gold Wings to make a one-year ad-

vance payment on land lease, if it is indeed willing to pursue its project on Tinian.

"Like I said before, I welcome any investment, but I hope Neo Gold Wings will be more sincere this time if they want to pursue the project. We also would like to see whether they will still pursue a \$1 billion project, or scale it down to, say, \$500 million or \$200 million," he said.

Babauta clarified, though, that Neo Gold Wings did not invite him or any DPL official to South Korea. Even if it did, however, he said they would not accept the invitation to avoid ethical and conflict-of-interest issues.

"I am not privy to what happened in Korea, and DPL is not aware of why Neo Gold Wings made an invitation to some officials. Neo Gold Wings has not communicated with us regarding the revocation of their land lease, their outstanding obligations, and whether they are still interested in building a casino on Tinian," Babauta added.

Land lease status

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said that, as chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, he also wants to know whether Neo Gold Wings is still interested in pursuing its casino project on Tinian.

He recently wrote to DPL to clarify the status of Neo Gold Wings' land lease.

"I already knew the land lease was revoked and they're ordered to vacate the place, but it's rather unusual that Neo Gold Wings invited CNMI officials to go to Korea for a ceremony. If Neo Gold Wings wishes to establish ties with the CNMI, we would like to know more about it," Hofschneider said.

On Aug. 6, DPL's Babauta wrote yet another letter to Neo Gold Wings Paradise president/treasurer Hyun Myung In, giving the investor five days to vacate the public land on Tinian and to pay DPL \$106,043.64.

Babauta said that amount has ballooned to over \$130,000 as of yesterday.

DPL has already initiated collection proceedings against Neo Gold Wings.

DPL gave Neo Gold Wings a termination notice on June 8, 2010, as it was seriously delinquent in its rental obligations to DPL. In that letter, DPL extended and provided Neo Gold Wings a grace period of 20 days to remit total payments of all rental amounts owed and outstanding, but the investor ignored the notices until DPL ordered it to vacate the public land.

Neo Gold Wings was one of three groups of investors that secured a conditional license to operate casinos on Tinian. The two others are Bridge Investment Group, and Marianas Resort Development Corp.

Only Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has been operating on the island since 1998.

He explained that they can spend over 100 kina [US\$39] just to transport their cargo from their huge plantations that can number over thousands of trees.

He explained that during this period with the demand for the green nut tipping the scales, they can control the market with no real competitor in sight.

By Easter every year the betel-nut is at its peak and the price for that same farm-set bag can go down to 25 kina [US\$10], he added.

BUDGETS

From Page 1

and the Tinian Municipal Council failed to act on the local budget, even up to now.

The last time Tinian passed a budget that was signed into law was in fiscal year 2006, when revenue from casino operation was at \$4.9 million.

Since then, Tinian has been under continuing budget resolution.

Unlike the central government, which is required to shut down if it fails to enact a budget, municipalities are not covered by the same constitutional provision.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Rota casino industry has yet to earn revenue for fiscal year 2011 so there is nothing to budget in the first place, but he said the leadership will be working on passing a local budget, albeit way past the start of the fiscal year.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the Tinian Legislative Delegation which he chairs, as well as the council, will ask the mayor to submit a revised budget to reflect current collections and projections.

He said such revised budget is likely to be only some \$1.9 million because Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is having more financial difficulty.

"The delegation was sidetracked by the CNMI-wide budget, and there were other issues that we also needed to take care of. But we will be working on this issue," he said.

Dela Cruz, in a separate interview, confirmed that the revised projection is down from some \$2.3 million to only \$1.9 million for fiscal year 2011.

Tinian uses its collection from casino revenue mostly to pay for the salaries of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission members and employees, as well as personnel of the Tinian Municipal Treasury.

Dela Cruz and Hofschneider said the number of commissioners is now down to two—and each of them is paid \$75,000 a year, plus fringe benefits that could cost as much as \$25,000.

The savings realized from the reduced number of paid commissioners now go to new obligations that the Tinian municipality is paying for.

He explained that everybody benefits down the line from the farmer, Public Motor Vehicles (PMV) owners, gate keepers, the buyers and the shops in the city.

The buyers come from all corners of the city...they don't sleep it's a 24 hour job, he said.

Once they know that a PMV is arriving soon they will be at the Gate's door-steps with bundles of cash spending over 1000 kina [US\$400] for at least four bags, he said.

These obligations include \$15,000 in monthly payments to the NMI Retirement Fund for employer and employee contributions that were not remitted in the past, as well as \$10,000 in monthly payments to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for debts related to the 60th commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian.

"Tinian owes Dynasty over \$200,000 for that 60th commemoration, and we're now paying \$10,000 a month for that. I inherited a lot of debts and we're just now starting to make payments," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said his greatest concern is to ensure that they meet the payroll on time.

"Our payroll requirement is \$46,000 per pay period. We almost couldn't meet payroll with last month's collection," he added.

Dela Cruz said he's thankful that one of his staffers, Allan Perez, has a background in finance and is temporarily taking over the role of municipal treasurer.

"We can't hire a treasurer because we don't have money," the mayor added.

Dela Cruz also said that Tinian employees funded by the CNMI budget are now back to a 64-hour work every pay period, effective Dec. 17.

Just like Tinian, Rota also has yet to pass a fiscal year 2011 budget. As of yesterday, it's still unknown what the projected revenue will be from Rota Treasure Island Corp., its lone casino.

In May this year, a local law was signed appropriating \$402,000 for the operations and activities of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission for fiscal year 2010. As of yesterday, it's not clear whether that whole amount has been used up.

The \$402,000 came from the application fee paid by Rota Treasure Island Corp. to operate a casino on Rota.

From 1991 to 2003, Rota tried four times without success to allow casino operation through public initiative. However, in November 2007, Rota voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of the public initiative to allow casino gaming.

Manglona said most of that amount is supposed to pay the casino commissioners. However, because of lack of funds, the commissioners also get their payroll from the CNMI central government. He said each commissioner on Rota is paid \$60,000 a year.

Sichuan Airlines seeking permission to fly to the CNMI



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hard Rock Café Saipan operations manager Reynaldo Perez, right, hands to Karidat representatives canned goods worth \$300 at the Karidat office in Chalan Kanoa last Dec. 23.

Hard Rock Café hosts party and donates canned goods to Karidat

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hard Rock Café Saipan donated canned goods worth \$300 to Karidat Social Services on Dec. 23.

Operations manager Reynaldo Perez handed the donation to Karidat representatives at their office in Chalan Kanoa Thursday afternoon.

The donated goods were collected by Hard Rock through a food drive launched on Dec. 13.

The "Imagine-Karidat Food Drive Campaign" is a partnership between Hard Rock and Karidat as part of the "Imagine There's No Hunger" movement.

Imagine There's No Hunger is Hard Rock International's global campaign that helps raise awareness and funding to fight childhood hunger and poverty

around the world.

The campaign concept is based on John Lennon's 1971 hit that envisions a world of peace and free of poverty.

Perez said DFS Galleria and National Car Rental contributed to the Karidat food drive campaign.

Hard Rock Café Saipan also hosted a Christmas lunch for seven families being assisted by the premier social service arm in the CNMI.

Perez told *Saipan Tribune* that this is the first time that Hard Rock Café Saipan did an activity that benefited Karidat.

"We are overwhelmed by the support that we got from the community in helping Karidat. We are very happy that we were able to do it. Hopefully, we will make it an annual activity at Hard Rock, just like Pinktober," said the operations manager.

Sobriety checkpoints this weekend

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be setting up sobriety checkpoints this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

DEC. 31, 2010 (FRIDAY)

■ 6pm-7:15pm: Chalan Pale Arnold Road 2W Gualo Rai in front of the CRM Office building, on the northbound lane.

■ 11pm-12:15am: Beach Road Chalan Laulau, across Dr. Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane.

■ 3am-4:15am:

Beach Road Susupe in front of the Minatchom Adao pavilion on the southbound lane.

JANUARY 1, 2011 (SATURDAY)

■ 6pm-7:15pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, 2W Gualo Rai in front of Hans's Corp. on the northbound lane.

■ 11pm-12:10am: Beach Road Garapan across the Bank Pacific on the southbound lane.

■ 3am-4:15am: Chalan Pale Arnold road in front Coin Laundry on the southbound lane.

JANUARY 2, 2011 (SUNDAY)

■ 3pm-4:15pm: Beach Road Susupe in front of the Minatchom Adao pavilion on the southbound lane.

■ 8pm-9:15pm: Beach Road Garapan across the Bank Pacific on the southbound lane.

■ 11pm-12am: Chalan Pale Arnold Road in front Coin Laundry on the southbound lane.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each site.

Police officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

If you know you can't drive, call the 3D hotline at 989-HELP (4357) OR 989-SAVE (7283).

This activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all operators abide by the law. (DPS)

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sichuan Airlines Co. Ltd. has filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation an application to allow it to provide air services between the CNMI and China as early as February 2011.

"Sichuan Airlines requests expedited consideration of this application to provide sufficient time to market such services," the airline said in a Dec. 22 filing with the U.S. DOT.

In its filing, the airline said approval of its initial proposal to conduct four weekly flights between points in the People's Republic of China and Saipan "is in the public interest because it will promote foreign travel and tourism to the CNMI."

The CNMI economy relies

on air transportation to keep its tourism moving.

"As the economic stature of the PRC continues to grow, promoting Chinese tourism to Saipan and the neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota is becoming increasingly important," the airline told the U.S. DOT.

The airline said it also served copies of its application to CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry John P. Tenorio.

Sichuan Airlines is based in Chengdu, the capital of the Sichuan Province. It has been in operation since 1988 and its fleet currently consists of 57 aircraft, with 29 additional aircraft on order for

delivery through 2013.

Although Sichuan Airlines operates predominantly domestic PRC flights, it also provides regional international service to points such as Seoul in South Korea and Taipei in Taiwan, and recently operated seasonal flights to Male in Maldives.

"Sichuan Airlines is now seeking authority from the DOT to introduce scheduled service to the CNMI and to conduct charter flights to the United States as opportunities arise," it said.

CNMI officials have been saying that they welcome foreign investors especially during these tough economic times.

China is considered a secondary CNMI tourism market. In November alone, the CNMI saw 2,346 arrivals from China, a 14 percent decrease over the same month last year partly because the number of air seats from China also decreased.

Roll with a BlackBerry this Christmas!

BlackBerry Pearl

\$59.00*

BlackBerry Pearl Flip

\$99.00*

BlackBerry Bold

\$299.00*

Don't go Slow, Go EV-DO

BlackBerry

Offer valid Dec. 16th thru Dec. 30th

*Some conditions apply - Must sign up for 2 year agreement on a 600 minute plan or higher.
Must sign up for BlackBerry data plan at \$39.95 a month
(First 3 months BlackBerry data for ONLY \$19.95 a month) - Single Plan Only - New accounts only - Limited Time ONLY

BlackBerry®, RM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world.

Saipan: 682-4ITE [4483] • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE [4483] • www.ite.net

Boy scouts begin 50-mile adventure around Saipan



CLARISSA V. DAVID

CNMI Boys Scouts island director Cal Reyes and advancement and recognition chair William Hunter join members of Troop 913 led by scout master Valrick Welch at the group's first day of camp site for the 50-miler challenge behind Aquarius Beach Tower yesterday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time, members of Boy Scouts Troop 913 embarked on a five-day mission that will have them hiking a total distance of 50 miles around the island.

Eight scouts, two eagle scouts, and four adult leaders participated in the adventure that began yesterday and would earn the scouts the 50-miler patch.

Scout master Valrick Welch told *Saipan Tribune* that this is the first time they carried out this mission on a Christmas break.

Welch said the participants began the 50-mile hike challenge yesterday from the Church of Latter Day Saints in Chalan Laulau to the airport then down to the beach behind the Aquarius Beach Tower.

Today, the second day of the challenge, participants will hike from Aquarius Beach Tower all the way to Forbidden Island.

The third day will involve hiking from Forbidden Island to Mt. Tapochau, while the fourth day will require them to hike from the highest peak of Saipan to the American Memorial Park. Instead of camping at the park, however, participants will pitch their tents at the beach behind McDonald's in Garapan.

On the last day of the challenge, the scouts will navigate

a regular sailboat from the Smiling Cove Marina to Managaha Island.

Welch said the participants will render two hours of community service each day of the mission by picking up trash in their camp area, the highlight of which will be the service hours to be rendered at the American Memorial Park.

Cal Reyes, island director for the CNMI Boy Scouts of America, said Troop 913 is the best boy scout unit on island as they are more advanced not only physically but also in scouting activities and experience.

"On behalf of the district committee, it's truly a pleasure for me to assist and support these scouts in their mission," said Reyes in an interview at the scouts' first camp area behind Aquarius Beach Tower.

According to Reyes, the scouts themselves did most of the planning and coordination for the 50-mile challenge, giving them the necessary leadership training experience.

"This 50-mile hike is perhaps the biggest challenge they're going to face and with the help of their leaders, they're going to be successful," he added.

Other district committee officers that paid visit to the Troop 913 scouts on their first day were district commissioner Wayne Gillespie and advancement and recognition chair William Hunter.

Mardi Gras

2011

New Year's Eve Countdown

AT PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB

9 pm, December 31, 2010
Seaside Grill

includes a Gala Dinner Buffet

Golden Mardi Gras Package: \$396 couple, \$35 child
Silver Jester Package: \$286 couple, \$35 child

featuring the magic of Prince,
the spectacular performances
of SEA Clubmates and Icon Band

plus an amazing display of FIREWORKS
with champagne toast at the strike of midnight

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB
www.picresorts.com

Seaside Grill

CERTIFIED SAUCES RESTAURANT

PWS

ISLAND FLAVOR

DFS

Reservations for the Gala dinner is required. Please call 237-5126.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fishery meeting today

There will be a Fishery Management Meeting today, Dec. 28, 2010, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 6pm to 8pm, to provide the public information on the federally mandated Annual Catch Limits and Catch Shares with regard to the CNMI's Management Unit Species and to receive public comments and concerns. For more information, contact Richard B. Seman at 484-4986 or Jack T. Ogumoro at 287-9482. (PR)

Red Cross health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month January 2011:

- Adult CPR: Jan. 15, 2011, Saturday, 8am – 12pm
- First aid: Jan. 15, 2011, Saturday, 1pm – 5pm
- Infant & Child CPR: Feb. 12, 2011, Saturday, 8am – 1pm

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$35 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$40 per person.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. You can also register online at <http://www.redcross.org>. (PR)

Rakina raffle draw winners

Here are the winners Rakina's fundraising raffle:

- Grand Prize: Ticket no. 712 (no name)
- Baby Grand Prize: Ticket no. 193 (P. Sasamoto)
- 1st Prize: Ticket no. 500 (L. Dean 989-3326)
- 2nd Prize: Ticket no. 528 (no name)
- 3rd Prize: Ticket no. 225 (KJ 285-8476)
- 4th Prize: Ticket no. 0075 (Tinie Josie L. Santos)
- 5th Prize: Ticket no. 928 (no name)
- 6th Prize: Ticket no. 309 (Cardine R. Route)
- 7th Prize: Ticket no. 491 (L. Dean)
- 8th Prize: Ticket no. 293 (L. Pangelinan)
- 9th Prize: Ticket no. 931 (Tinian 989-3326)
- 10th Prize: Ticket no. 192 (T. Manglona)

Winners need to present the stub to claim their prizes. Unclaimed prizes 30 days after this publication will be forfeited. Call Penny Norita at 287-4370.

Koblerville resident is 1st beneficiary of weatherization program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Energy Division of the Department of Public Works gave a timely Christmas gift on Friday with the awarding of energy efficient appliances to the first recipient of the Residential Weatherization Program on Saipan.

Tony Rogolifoi received a 16.5 cubic foot refrigerator and compact fluorescent lamps on Christmas Eve and will receive a 6,000 BTU window-type air conditioner next week as part of the program designed to encourage residents in the CNMI to make their households more energy-efficient.

The Residential Weatherization Program allows families to replace their incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps and exchange old, power-guzzling appliances such as air conditioners and refrigerators with energy-efficient ones.

The program, funded by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is part of an overall plan spearheaded by the Energy Division to make the Commonwealth more energy-efficient.

A Koblerville resident, Rogolifoi decided to avail of the program after finding out about



encouraged the public to continue their energy efficiency and conservation efforts in the community.

Those interested to avail of the program may visit the Energy Division office at 1337 Ascension Drive on Capital Hill, visit their website at www.cnmienergy.com, send email to energy@pticom.com or call 664-4480 or 81.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Energy Division director Thelma Inos congratulates Koblerville resident Tony Rogolifoi for being the first recipient of the Residential Weatherization Program. Rogolifoi received on Christmas Eve a 16.5 cubic-foot refrigerator and compact fluorescent light bulbs. In addition, he will receive next week a 6,000 BTU window-type air conditioner.

it through the newspaper.

Looking forward to lowering his energy consumption, Rogolifoi thanked the Energy Division for having his home weatherized on Christmas eve and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the program.

Energy Division staff led by director Thelma Inos and deputy director Vincent Attao congratulated Rogolifoi and his family for being the first program recipient.

"Together, we can all make a change," added Inos as she

The Saipan Tribune will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31, in celebration of the New Year.

There will therefore be no newspaper on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

The Saipan Tribune Person of the Year and Year-end Reports will be published in the Dec. 31 edition of the newspaper.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP11-DPW-023

Submission: January 27, 2011 Time: 2:00 P.M.

"A&E CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR ARRA ENERGY PROJECTS"

The complete scope of work will be available on **December 28, 2010** at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, Third (3rd) Floor, Marianas Business Plaza #315, Susupe, Saipan.

A **Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** is scheduled for **9:00 A.M., local time** at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **January 13, 2011**.

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via e-mail to alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp or faxed to (670) 234-3016 no later than **4:30 P.M., local time, January 18, 2011**.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public law 15-95 local preference act, as further amended by Public Law 15-118, does not apply to this federally funded project.

This project is funded by the American Recovery and Re-investment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA State Lead

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Attn: Contractors, Hardware Stores, Government Agencies, Project Managers

Warehouse Inventory Sale – Everything Must Go. Selling at Less than Landed Cost For BULK Purchases Only While Supplies Last

ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, HARDWARE ITEMS.

2" CONCRETE NAIL 55 BOXES (50LBS) \$25.00 PER BOX (CALL FOR LOT PRICE)

CERAMIC FLOOR TILE #3895 **SOLD** 550 PCS ENTIRE LOT \$280.00
GLASS BLOCK – ICE FLOWER **SOLD** 104 PCS ENTIRE LOT \$750.00

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: BLOCK PLANT MACHINE, RIPPING MACHINE,
ALUMINUM TRUCK BEDS, VENDING MACHINES – MAKE OFFER

Contact Conrad Jr. at 235-9020, Cell No. 888-8948,
Email conradsbln@gmail.com.

Ask for Inventory List. We can email or deliver hard copy.

Ask for Special Pricing for Entire Lot Purchase.

**SABLAN
ENTERPRISES, INC.**



Located in Chalan Piao Across from Tapo Shopping.



U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ALLEN HUNTER

Local women of Woleai dance for Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* crewmembers in gratitude for the gifts the crew brought to as part of Operation Santa's Sleigh Dec. 16, 2010.

Coast Guard plays Santa in Yap atolls

The Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* recently returned to Guam from a four-day mission, Operation Santa Sleigh, to deliver holiday donations to the remote atolls of Ulithi and Woleai in Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Nearly 1,000 pounds of goods, including clothes, shoes, linens, camping equipment, and tools, were given away. The following are photographs taken of the event:



LCDR MATTHEW SALAS

Donations are distributed in the men's meeting area at Woleai.



FSC Jason Drzewicki of floods garden tools at the high school in Ulithi.

LCDR MATTHEW SALAS



The crew of the Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* offloads donations onto a small boat for delivery to Ulithi, Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia, Dec. 16, 2010.

U.S. COAST GUARD/FIREMAN DAVID KINNAMONT

Donations are taken ashore in Ulithi.

BM2 JACOB HERMANSON

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 28, 1998

ER needs expansion, report says

The emergency room of the island's only hospital must be expanded because its space is becoming too small to accommodate the increasing number of patients, according to a report submitted to the Department of Public Health. The report, titled "Emergency Department Vision 2000," said the Commonwealth Health Center's ER is already inadequate and must be expanded to meet the demands of the next century. Statisticians project Saipan's current population of about 70,000 to grow to 90,000 by the year 2000. "We are already seeing more trauma, drug abuse and an increasing number of elderly patients with multiple medical problems.

NMC braces for year 2000

The Northern Marianas College prepares for the coming millennium with a strategic master plan that will steer its academic mission and vision for the next five years. "This is the overarching idea as to where we should be moving towards the 21st century," as NMC President Agnes McPhetres would put it. The document will also support NMC's request for annual appropriation from the government. Since it gives a comprehensive picture on where the school is heading to, McPhetres is optimistic that NMC can secure the funding it deserves. In preparing for this plan, NMC had to go back to the community it was mandated to serve, inquiring from people about their needs and how the college can help.

Dec. 28, 1999

Takeover of SBDC to push through

Commonwealth Development Authority Board chair John S. Tenorio has dismissed the latest allegations leveled against the former director of the local Small Business Development Center as he assured this will have no impact on the decision to take over its management. "Whether there is a personal problem between the Northern Marianas College and Jack Peters, that's their problem. My only concern is that I don't want to lose the extra financial aid," he told in an interview. Mr. Peters, who used to head the NMC-SBDC until his departure last April, has been accused by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes of possible wrongdoing involving use of federal funds given to the center.

Fitial retires from Tan Holdings

Representative-elect Benigno R. Fitial has announced plans to retire from Tan Holdings Group of Companies effective Dec. 31, 1999 in preparation for his return to public life. Fitial steps down as one of top business executives at Tan Holdings after 11 years with the company. The announcement was made last Thursday evening at the annual company Christmas Party held at Dai-ichi Hotel. In his farewell remarks, Fitial said that the most important aspects of his tenure with Tan Holdings were the broad exposure and experiences he gained in business management, operations and meeting highly successful business owners and corporate executives from abroad.

Dec. 28, 2000

PSS notes high student enrollment

Newly-released Public School System statistics reveal that student enrollment in public schools increased 2.57 percent this school year, or an additional 235 students in PSS classrooms, excluding head start and early childhood pupils. According to Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos the figures indicate an improvement in public perception and the rising confidence in public education, noting that most students who have entered PSS schools last August are transferees from private institutions. "This is a manifestation that parents and the community are showing more faith in the public education sector. And it's a good feeling," said Dr. Inos yesterday. Total student enrollment from pre-school to high school reached 10,004 from last year's 9,692.

MVA, BPL settle dispute on tourist sites

The Marianas Visitors Authority and the Board of Public Lands will sign a Memorandum of Agreement turning over the jurisdiction of tourist sites back to MVA. In a joint meeting recently held, the BPL agreed to remand to MVA the job of maintaining the sites, a responsibility which was taken away from the tourism office by the court. MVA's development plans on the tourist sites have been put on hold since the issue on which agency should continue taking the responsibility of maintaining these areas popped up. The MVA board was also looking at the possibility of hiring an insurance company to cover the tourist sites as some form of protection in the event the tourism agency is sued for civil damages in case of an accident.

Island Snapshots



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 6th birthday, Kinisha Fayette K. Lizama! We love and miss you a lot! Love, Daddy Kindo, Grandma Kai and Grandpa Jun, and the Diaz and Lizama families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

Children arriving on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands last holiday season were welcomed by Saipan-da and given Saipan-da backpacks, courtesy of the Marianas Visitors Authority. The MVA distributed the holiday gifts again this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport.

MVA



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Victorious Christian Church held its Christmas Party at Kaizuku Restaurant in Susupe last Sunday, Dec 26, 2010.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GROUNDBREAKING RITES

From left, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, former Bishop Tomas Camacho, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. director Joshua T. Sasamoto listen to one of the speakers during the groundbreaking for the Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa last week.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SHARK TALK

From left, Hawaii State Sen. Clayton Hee (D-23rd District), Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and Stefanie Brendl, Shark Campaign Project Manager for WildAid, share a light moment after a courtesy visit to the Office of the Governor in Capital Hill. Hee is a strong advocate and author of the Hawaii legislation prohibiting shark finning in the State of Hawaii. A similar bill pending in the CNMI Legislature is modeled upon Hee's bill. Fitial indicate his full support for the shark finning ban in the CNMI and is awaiting final action in the Legislature before the bill is transmitted to the Executive Branch for action.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SHRM CONFERENCE

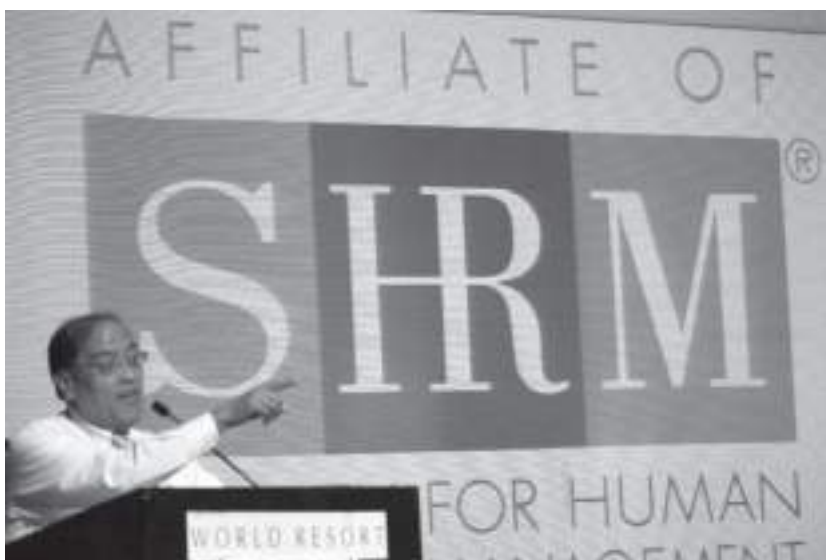
Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan addresses members of the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter on the importance of health care reform for the CNMI, during the SHRM meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Dec. 21, Tuesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez talks about the impact of health care reform on public health and medical referral during the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter's meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Buffet

December 31st, 2010 6:00pm - 9:30pm
at ARC poolside. all you can eat & drink!!
Adult: \$80.00 Child: \$40.00 (6 to 11 yrs)

entertainment shows
island wear fashion show
dance & music
LISC prizes!
exciting fireworks show



celebration start at
December 31, 2010 9:30pm

countdown to the
2011

December 31st, 2010 9:30pm - 0:30am
Adult: \$80.00 Child: \$40.00 (6 to 11 yrs)
Included 1 drink coupon per paying guest



ARC

AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan

For inquiry or reservation please call 322-1234 ext. 731 or 732.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 308Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't panic, but...

(c) 2010, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Obama administration is faced with one of those damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't decisions: Should it be giving Americans advice on what to do in case of a nuclear attack by terrorists on an American city?

On the one hand, nobody wants to cause a panic. The mere fact that something comes with a White House imprimatur is enough to cause cable news outlets to levitate. And nobody is saying that a suitcase (or cargo container or whatever) bomb is an imminent threat.

On the other hand, if the administration ignores the possibility altogether, and something catastrophic does happen, and the administration hasn't widely disseminated simple information that could save tens of thousands of lives, it would make what happened to George W. Bush after Hurricane Katrina look like a coronation.

So the administration is doing what President Barack Obama is wont to do, anyway: splitting the difference. It has begun distributing to emergency preparedness officials around the nation a planning guide on how to respond to an isolated nuclear attack. And it slowly has begun distributing similar information to the general public on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Citizens Corps website.

Here, as they say, is the takeaway: Ignore the impulse to run away. Stay inside, even if it's inside your car. And if you are inside, go as deep into the basement as possible and stay there for at least a couple of hours.

"Shelters such as houses with basements, large multi-story structures, and underground spaces (e.g., parking garages and tunnels) can generally reduce (radiation) doses from fallout by a factor of 10 or more. These structures would generally provide shelter defined as adequate."

So it says in the "Planning Guidance for Response to a Nuclear Detonation," prepared by a federal interagency committee." It is fascinating reading, full of grim acronyms like "LD50" (a lethal dose or radiation that kills 50 percent of a population) and "RTR" (Radiation Triage, Treatment and Transport).

It assumes, for sake of argument, that terrorists would acquire a 10-kiloton nuclear device, the explosive equivalent of 10,000 tons of TNT, only worse because TNT doesn't create radioactive fallout.

A 10-kiloton nuclear weapon creates a fireball 650 feet wide. Anything within a kilometer (six-tenths of a mile) of ground zero will be flattened or heavily damaged by the shock wave or wind. "Lifesaving not likely," the report advises.

Outside of this "no-go" zone and within a mile of ground zero, there will be heavy structural damage but "many serious injuries (and) greatest lifesaving opportunities."

Outside of a mile, you have a pretty good chance of surviving, provided you head for the basement or stay in your car. The better the shelter and the longer you stay in it, the better your chances. Fallout will be a serious problem as far as 20 miles away, depending on the wind, for as long as 72 hours, depending on how close you are to the blast.

Also, the report says, local emergency responders shouldn't expect any substantial federal help for at least 24 hours, and perhaps as long as 72 hours.

How much should people worry about this? Not much. What are the odds?

But it is a good thing that some people are worrying about it.

19TH-CENTURY CARTOONIST THOMAS NAST DREW THE ELEPHANT AS THE ICON FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

HERE IS ITS REPLACEMENT FOR
THE 21ST CENTURY:
THE
HIPPOCRITOPOTOMUS



doffvink.com

War's real report card isn't so reassuring

The Obama administration's year-end review of its strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan, released last week, was intended to be cautiously reassuring: Yes, there are challenges, but military progress is being made. Overall, President Barack Obama said, "We are on track to achieve our goals."

On closer reading, though, even the carefully written five-page public summary of the review isn't as reassuring as some of the headlines it earned. In Afghanistan, it says, the growth of the Taliban insurgency has been slowed, but that achievement is "fragile and reversible." In Pakistan, progress in the shadowy war against extremists has been "substantial," but not enough to deny either al-Qaida or the Afghan Taliban the havens that shelter them from defeat; that will require much more military action than the Pakistanis have been willing to undertake so far.

And the report—at least the public version—barely mentioned some of the most daunting problems facing the U.S. in Afghanistan. "Emphasis must continue to be placed on the development of Afghan-led security and governance," it said. Translation: In many areas, there's still no functioning Afghan government or police force. The word "corruption" never appeared; the administration's rocky relationship with Afghanistan's mercurial president, Hamid Karzai, got no mention. Nor did it make much of a case that Pakistan, which is focused on its own problems, is likely to commit more troops and take more risks to help the U.S. and Afghanistan.

More important, the report's on-the-ground focus meant it also largely ignored three of the biggest factors shaping the future of the U.S. enterprise in Afghanistan and Pakistan: time, cost and the support of the American people.

The U.S.-led war in Afghanistan is already in its 10th year, even though (as administration officials often point out) it has only been waged at its current full strength of 140,000 American and allied troops for the last six months. Initially, U.S. military officials hoped to show quick successes on the ground that would provide what they call "proof of concept" in time for last week's report. That timetable, like every timetable in Afghanistan, has slipped; proof of concept is now on the agenda for a full review that is scheduled for July 2011.

Some military officers are already saying that even then they may need more time to show what they can do, and they are readying their arguments in favor of the slowest possible drawdown of troops.

The United States and NATO have embraced Karzai's target of turning over principal responsibility for the war to Afghan forces by the end of 2014, but that goal is only "aspirational," a Pentagon spokesman has said. (Moreover, he added, "It's the end of 2014, so effectively that's 2015.") And handing off to the Afghans won't mean a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops; officials have estimated that at least 35,000 would stay behind as advisers, even under a best-case scenario.

The longer the war continues, the more it costs in both lives and

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



money. Because of stepped-up military operations, U.S. deaths in Afghanistan are on track to reach 500 this year, up from 317 last year. The financial cost is heavy too—more than \$100 billion a year, money the cash-strapped U.S. government can ill-afford. In a report of its own last month, the Council on Foreign Relations—the heart of the traditional foreign policy establishment—warned: "We are mindful of the threat we face. But we are also aware of the costs of the present strategy. We cannot accept these costs unless the strategy begins to show signs of progress."

Given the toll in casualties and costs, it's not surprising that public support for the war has eroded. A poll by the Pew Research Center last month found for the first time that more Americans (47 percent vs. 44 percent) favor an early withdrawal from Afghanistan over staying until the country is stabilized.

Obama has built escape hatches into his policy if it begins to look as if the current strategy isn't working. The president didn't fully embrace the ambitious counterinsurgency strategy proposed by Gens. Stanley A. McChrystal and David H. Petraeus last year; instead, he gave them enough troops for a limited version, with a deadline of July 2011 to start downsizing. (Last week, Obama credited the deadline's galvanizing effect for much of the progress reported in the review.)

He insisted, as he has before, that U.S. goals in Afghanistan are limited to denying a haven to al-Qaida. "It's not nation-building," he said, even though nation-building is normally part of effective counterinsurgency. He promised to stay committed to the fight against terrorism, but carefully didn't tie himself to any one strategy.

Still, Obama's decisions on the war so far have been to give his military commanders what they requested with only modest adjustments. His course has been marked by caution, not audacity. So even though he faces a more serious strategic decision by July 2011, the pattern so far suggests that he's likely to make another incremental decision—a modest drawdown of troops, followed by another review in another six months.

So where do we stand? As Obama said, "We are on track to achieve our goals." But we are on track to achieve them some time after 2015, when the U.S. forces in Afghanistan will be in their 15th year of the war.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Footloose 2: An innocent jaunt to Java Joe's

In the Blue Mountains of Jamaica and around Lake Lagos in Nigeria, people do not walk. They dance. This was early '80s. The jukebox in one of the stores in Woburn Lawn, Jamaica, got turned on at 9am and stayed on until 4am. The community descended from former slaves; we held an economic acceleration maneuver in their development project assisted by the Kingston office of the Institute of Cultural Affairs. The Blue Mountains is noted for its exquisite coffee that grows well with the Ganja. Rasta on Marley's reggae drags on the weed liberally, in fact, religiously. The same is true around Lake Lagos in Nigeria where some of the Caribbean slaves were abducted from; the grass is grown quite literally like, well, grass!

We seriously looked at the challenge of farming on island, having encouraged the propagation of *ylang-ylang* trees for its fragrant flowers, the source of the base scent for Chanel No. 5. A 10-acre farm would produce enough that could sustain production of a distinct island perfume for the visitors' industry. Former PSS commissioner Liz Rechebei even potted us a dozen seedlings, which we get our students to tend in our Science class at SVES.

Our Spanish first name, when apostrophized on the first letter, is a chic approximation of the first person singular present tense form of the French verb "to love." A brand called *j'aime* was on our mind, eventually opening a boutique shop at Ms. Marian's DFS Galleria; we dreamed.

Boning up on permaculture to practice sustainable green farming, I bought a bush cutter and a motorized saw to cut the overgrown foliage at our target hillside farm. My would-be partner had medical bills and his wife was imminently hospital-bound with a child, so unbeknownst to me, he stuck a few stalks of young Blue Mountain gold behind their house in anticipation of medical bills.

Some of us experience our legislator Stanley Torres as a consum-

mate performer, and we seldom agree with the content of his antics, but we are entertained by the manner with which he goes about stepping on every *haole's* toes (dark or pale) that gets in his way. We share his view that decriminalizing the inhaling of Mary Jane is acknowledging a widespread habit on island, in the same frequency and volume of betel nut consumption. The nation's direction toward pot legalization, if only for medical reasons, can only promote a bearable lightness of being rather than incarceration in the monkey house. That might even take the pressure off porker poking pokerers and the widespread use of ice.

Not wanting to be implicated in what is still a criminal offense, I deferred from moving to the farm. My partner also failed to notice that someone came to his house and helped himself to the brand new machines we were going to use to clear the farm. My plan to construct another lean-to on the premises soured also as PSS and the Retirement Fund took their time to release my claims; by the time we got our dime, it was barely sufficient to settle existing debts!

Which is a roundabout way to context our jaunt to Java Joe's. We had an early morning spirit *kibitz* over coffee with a colleague at NMC. The walk took us through the narrow lane of Tun Antonio Apa Rd and having nearly missed earlier an almost wayward pickup on Tun Doi, we were extra careful to be alert in making a pedestrian lane on the grass. Thus, our mind went the way of the grass and Stanley's cannabis legislation.

We wailed previously on our bike trail accounts against the absence of bike paths, or the callous disregard of motorist for bikers who stay on the pavement, but now, with the absence of pedestrian lanes, it is clear that the only ones on the side of the road are alien workers, captive by the absence of public transportation, and unwilling to part with their minimum wage earnings on taxis or the cost of gasoline. There are also

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



some out-of-school youth who seem to have happily discovered their Uncle's verdant outgrowth on the sunny side of the coconuts. They did a music-less shuffle down the road.

That's when I thought again of the *ylang-ylang*, and wrote myself a note to see if the Del Rosario and Olopai farms on the leeward side of Tapochao were interested to stick some seedlings on the ground. Coffee and jasmine grows with the *ylang-ylang* tree. Coffee is always in demand; jasmine tea is a favored Chinese drink. The *ylang-ylang* scent will cause any decent mwar-mwar wearer to dance. Think what a perfume would do.

Not unlike the youth of the Blue Mountains and around Lake Lagos, and our island's music-less shuffle, I give a nod to what Hans Bos says about his dance: "*While I dance I cannot judge, I cannot hate, I cannot separate myself from life. I can only be joyful and whole. That is why I dance.*" Something about keeping that internal beat drumming in your head to regulate cadence in one's feet and gracefully swing the arm up and down as the buttocks semi-gyrate in measured sways, and you know the steps on your feet are caused by more than the caffeine served at Java Joe's.

Shall we dance?

Love and politics in a cynical age

Ask an American about the connection between love and politics, and he'll probably conjure up heartbreaking images of Elizabeth Edwards, of embarrassed philanthropists from both sides of the aisle or of the parade of long-suffering, dutiful political wives who, in the famous words of Hillary Rodham Clinton, "stand by their men."

The truth is that we don't generally associate politics or politicians with happy marriages and deep romance, let alone fidelity. The constant revelation of scandals and peccadilloes in the halls of power have trained us to expect the worst of those—particularly the men—we elect to shepherd and protect the interests of society. Somewhere along the line, Americans have even bought into the notion that a politician's private life, in particular his love life, has little or nothing to do with his efforts on behalf of the public good.

Some pols who betray love are punished at the polls or sink into retirement, never to return to the public stage in the same way again (Gary Hart, Larry Craig). But plenty of others, even among the family-values set, get second and even third chances. Teddy Kennedy (remember Chappaquiddick?), Rudy Giuliani (whose ex-wife accused him of "notorious adultery"), Newt Gingrich (married to wife No. 3). And closer to home, Gavin Newsom, the former San Francisco mayor whom Californians elected last month to the office of lieutenant governor, despite his affair with the wife of a close aide and friend.

Recently, after reading about the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, I started to wonder whether we're too quick to discount a connection between good spouses and good politics. This year's prizewinner, Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, was in jail in China rather than in Oslo accepting his award. In his absence, actress Liv Ullmann read aloud the statement Liu released last December as he was awaiting trial for "inciting subversion of state power." At the top, he sermonized against hatred ("enmity can poison a nation's spirit"), but his ending was an exquisite love letter to his wife, Liu Xia.

"I am sentenced to a visible prison," he wrote, "while you are waiting in an invisible one. Your love is sunlight that transcends prison walls and bars, stroking every inch of my skin, warming my every cell, letting me maintain my inner calm, magnanimous and bright, so that every minute in prison is full of meaning. But my love for you is full of guilt and regret, sometimes heavy enough to hobble my steps. I am a hard stone in the wilderness, putting up with the pummeling of raging storms, and too cold for anyone to dare touch. But my love is hard, sharp, and can penetrate any obstacles. Even if I am crushed into powder, I will embrace you with the ashes."

Wow. I don't expect to find words like that in the autobiography of any American political figure. (There was that smoochy kiss between Al and Tipper Gore on the podium at the 2000 Democratic convention, but even all those years before the amicable divorce, it

By **GREGORY RODRIGUEZ**

Los Angeles Times

Gregory Rodriguez is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.



seemed more about style than substance.)

When love comes up in politics, it's about brotherhood and sisterhood, the kind of emotion the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called for in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech: "all-embracing and unconditional love for all men" as "the key to the solution of the problems of the world."

Now, though, after reading Liu's lyrical words to his wife, I think our jaded, sophisticated acceptance of bad spouses/lovers might have led us to lower the bar for ardor in public life a bit too far. In Liu's case, one can easily imagine his dedication and loyalty to his wife nourishing and underlining his commitment to bringing true reform to China, even under the most oppressive conditions.

And if Liu's passion tells us something about his commitment to his cause, I fear that the lesser behavior of our callow pols suggests quite the opposite.

In the final analysis, we want our officials to love and do right by their country. Even the most cynical observer would have trouble disagreeing with the idea that love begins at home.

Defeat of DREAM Act will hurt opponents

By **ALVARO HUERTA**

THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Republicans managed to defeat the DREAM Act, but it's a victory that will haunt them.

The DREAM Act—the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act—died in the Senate on Dec. 18, just five votes shy of the 60 needed to advance.

The Republican Party once again demonstrated its disdain toward one of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in this country: undocumented immigrants.

And let's not forget the Democrats who voted against it. This group included Sens. Max Baucus of Montana, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Mark Pryor of Arkansas and Jon Tester of Montana.

If passed in Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama, the DREAM Act would have provided a pathway to citizenship to many undocumented individuals demonstrating a strong commitment toward higher education or service in the military.

I had several reservations with this bill, but not the same ones that the senators voting no had. I didn't like the word "Alien" in the title; no human being is an alien. I didn't like the fact that it would have induced young brown people to risk their lives in unjust wars like the one President George W. Bush waged in Iraq. And I didn't like

the fact that it gave special treatment to those who attend college. An immigrant kid who doesn't go to college still contributes to our society, after all.

Apart from my objections, this bill should have passed. It would have given hope and opportunity to immigrant children who came to this country at least five years ago—often as youngsters.

At the end of the day, while this is a short-term loss for Latinos in this country, in the long term, the Republicans and those conservative Democrats will pay a big price at the ballot box.

The browning of America is a reality that an aging white population needs to come to terms with. As the largest racial minority group in the country with a higher birth rate than the national average, Latinos will inevitably represent a majority in many key states.

Latinos are rising and demanding to be treated as human beings—with or without legal status. We want our children to have an equal shot at the American dream, and not experience an American nightmare.

Alvaro Huerta is a doctoral candidate at the University of California Berkeley's Department of City and Regional Planning and a visiting scholar at UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

Letters to the Editor

Public apology






To the of the Commonwealth: Pursuant to the judgment and commitment order in Superior Court criminal case no. 09-0066, I wish to apologize to the citizens of our CNMI for the crimes I committed in violations of 6CMC 1701 (b) and 6 CMC 1602 (a). I have realized my mistake and the bad decisions I have made and am now presently enduring the consequences. Although these experiences were very hard for me, I stood my ground to accept the fact that what I had done was wrong. Through various professional counseling and guidance, I am now committed more than ever to be a positive citizen in our community. Once again, in the spirit of this holiday season, I extend my sincere apology to all. May this Christmas and New Year bring all of us in harmony and joyous celebration. God bless.

Jesse M. Babauta

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

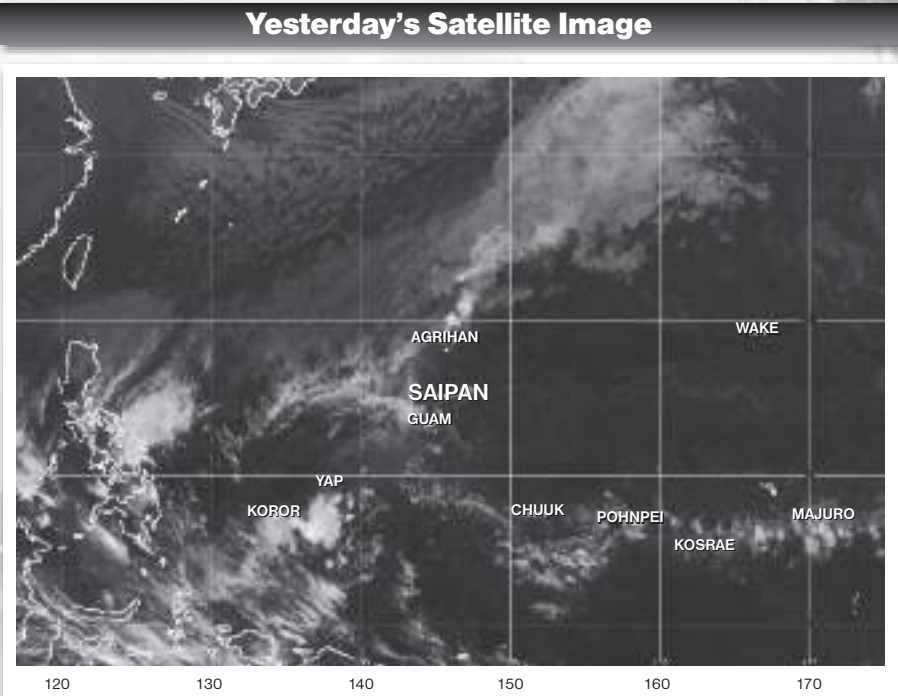
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲ 74 ▼ 66
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 17
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 57
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 70
London	Rain	▲ 47 ▼ 44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 57
Miami	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 35
New York	Snow	▲ 26 ▼ 21
Osaka	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 39
Paris	Ice	▲ 40 ▼ 36
Pusan	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 29
Rome	Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 35
Salem	Rain	▲ 46 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 51
Seoul	Snow	▲ 33 ▼ 19
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 43
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 32 ▼ 23

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
1:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N146E to 19N139E then continues as a stationary front to beyond 130E at 16N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of the front. A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from 3N130E to end at EQ138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of a line from 5N130E to 8N140E. Koror lies just north of this area. A surface trough reaches northeastward from 4N155E to end north of Pohnpei at 9N158E. Scattered showers are found within 170 miles of the trough axis. A surface trough heads east-northeastward across the Marshall Islands from 5N162E to beyond 180 at 8N. Scattered showers are present over Kosrae and Majuro but south of Kwajalein within 100 miles of the trough axis.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:41 AM	5:55 PM	Today	11:53 AM	
Wednesday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM	Wednesday	12:38 AM	12:37 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM	Thursday	1:35 AM	1:23 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM	Friday	2:34 AM	2:13 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	5:58 PM	Saturday	3:33 AM	3:05 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily		C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6		C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6	
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily		C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily	
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6		DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily		DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)						OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6		FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only		CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN	
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM		DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT		C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM		OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau		OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM		PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM	
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau		PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN		C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau	
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7		C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau	
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM	
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM	
					C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM	
					C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN		OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM	

Business

Delta expands Pacific service with 2 new routes from Japan

» Palau becomes 17th destination in Delta's Asia-Pacific network



TOKYO (PRNewswire)—Delta Air Lines last week expanded its Asia-Pacific network with the addition of new nonstop flights between Japan and two popular vacation destinations—Honolulu and the Pacific island of Palau.

The new service to Palau brings to 17 the number of Asia-Pacific destinations offered by Delta. The Nagoya-Honolulu route establishes a new competitive option for customers traveling between the two cities.

“Delta has been a leader in providing service from Japan to attractive beach resort destinations including Guam, Saipan and Hawaii for many years,” said Jeff Bernier, managing director-Pacific Sales and Affairs. “Our new service to Palau and expanded service to Honolulu underscore our commitment to providing more travel options to customers in Japan.”

Tokyo-Palau

Delta's new service between its Tokyo-Narita hub and Palau operates four times weekly and is the only service connecting the two airports.

Palau, an island nation in the Pacific Ocean that lies 500 miles east of the Philippines and 2,000 miles south of Tokyo,

is a popular scuba diving destination. In addition to divers, the island has been attracting tourists interested in its well-preserved natural environment. Nearly 30,000 Japanese tourists visit Palau each year.

The Palau flights, which are operated with 182-seat Boeing 757 aircraft featuring 20 BusinessElite seats and 162 seats in Economy, are scheduled as follows:

Flight	Departs	Arrives Effective	Frequency
607	Narita at 3:50pm	Palau at 9:10pm	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun
608	Palau at 4:05am	Narita at 9:15am	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat

Effective April 1, 2011, Delta will adjust its flight schedules to improve connections for U.S. customers flying to Palau. The flight will have a revised departure time of 6:30pm to enable connections from all of Delta's U.S. gateways via Tokyo. The re-timed flight will arrive into Palau at 11:45 p.m.

Nagoya-Honolulu

New nonstop service between Nagoya and Honolulu expands Delta's reach from Nagoya where it now offers more service than any U.S. airline, with nonstop flights to six cities—Detroit, Guam, Honolulu, Manila, Saipan and Tokyo-Narita.

The new flights also improve options for customers traveling nonstop between Nagoya and Honolulu by adding a second competitor on the route.

“Delta's new service provides more travel opportunities to our

customers in the Chubu region,” Bernier said. “Delta continues to be committed to the Chubu market, and we will continue to work with Nagoya-Centrair International Airport, local government, businesses and industry partners to offer a broader portfolio to better meet the needs of the local market.”

The Nagoya-Honolulu service operates with 216-seat Boeing 767-300ER aircraft featuring 35

BusinessElite seats and 181 seats in Economy. Flights are scheduled as follows:

Flight	Departs	Arrives Effective	Frequency
612	Nagoya at 7:50pm	Honolulu at 8:05am	Daily
611	Honolulu at 10:40am	Nagoya at 4:20pm (next day)	Daily

The new flights are part of Delta's ongoing expansion in Asia where it recently has seen revenue growth of more than 50 percent. In addition to added service to Honolulu and Palau, Delta plans to add new routes to Guangzhou and Tokyo-Haneda in 2011, and expand service to Beijing, Manila and Shanghai.

Delta now serves 17 cities across the Asia-Pacific region—Tokyo-Narita, Nagoya, Osaka, Pusan, Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Manila, Singapore, Palau, Guam, Saipan, Sydney and Tahiti (Operated by codeshare partner Air France). During the last three years, Delta has achieved a more than five-fold increase in Asia-Pacific markets through its acquisition of Northwest as well as organic growth.

Snowstorm coats East, frustrating holiday travel

NEW YORK (AP)—A winter storm made travel torturous in the Northeast on Sunday, dropping a thick layer of snow that stranded thousands of airline, train and bus passengers and made motorists think twice about hitting after-Christmas sales.

More than a foot of snow was expected in some areas, including New York and Boston, where an aquarium had to protect—of all things—penguin ice sculptures from the elements. A dumping of up to 20 inches had been forecast for Philadelphia, where the Eagles-Vikings NFL game was postponed because of the storm, but by early evening meteorologists said the city would end up getting no more than a foot.

More than 1,400 flights had been canceled out of the New York City area's three major airports alone, and more cancellations were expected Monday.

For many people, however, the storm's timing was perfect: the

day after Christmas, a Sunday, no school for at least a week.

“Love snowy days when I don't have to go anywhere. Staying in—just me and my cozy new socks,” author Nee-sha Meminger wrote on Twitter from her home in the Bronx.

She told the AP she's able to savor the moment because her children, ages 6 and 9, are on holiday break: “If this was during the school week, I would be cursing.”

Colleen and Graham James of Montclair, N.J., represented the other side of the coin. They were at Newark Airport with their two young children and their dachshund, trying to reach family in Iowa, but their connecting flight to Chicago was delayed more than two and a half hours.

“We left the day after Christmas to avoid the Christmas craze. I guess that didn't work out so well,” Colleen James said.

Graham James was resigning himself to postponing their trip

a month. “Now we're worried about just driving home because of the crazy snow,” he said.

Airlines canceled flights throughout the Northeast and at airports in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Chicago and the Carolinas. They expected more cancellations Monday, but were trying to rebook passengers and hoped to resume normal operations Tuesday.

U.S. Airways had already canceled 110 Monday flights by Sunday afternoon—spokesman Jim Olson said that was to try to keep passengers and crews from getting stranded at airports.

New York's Kennedy Airport was calm, apparently because many would-be travelers elected not to trudge to the terminal in hopes of getting rebooked.

Andrew Brent's flight to Florida was repeatedly pushed back, and the New York mayor-al spokesman thought he might have to wait until Monday to meet up with his wife and son



A traveler checks her phone near the ticketing area at Newark Liberty International Airport, Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, in Newark, N.J.

for vacation. But he added, “I'll get down there eventually so I'm not terribly worried.”

Amtrak, meanwhile, canceled train service from New York to Maine on Sunday evening, after doing the same earlier for sev-

eral trains in Virginia. Bus companies canceled routes up and down the East Coast, affecting thousands of travelers.

Kate Lindquist, on her way home from New Hampshire to New York City, was greeted with a handwritten sign at a Boston bus station: “Sorry, we are closed today.”

“To have this happen on a Sunday during a holiday weekend is incredibly frustrating,” she told the AP in an e-mail. The Northeast received the brunt of the storm. Forecasters issued a blizzard warning for New York City for Sunday and Monday, with a forecast of 11 to 16 inches of snow and strong winds reducing visibility to near zero at times.

A blizzard warning was also in effect for Rhode Island and most of eastern Massachusetts, where 12 to 16 inches of snow was expected by the time flurries taper off Monday morning, said William Babcock, a meteorologist with the National

Weather Service in Taunton, Mass. A blizzard warning is issued when snow is accompanied by sustained winds or gusts over 35 mph.

As much as 18 inches could fall on the New Jersey shore with wind gusts over 40 mph.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter declared a snow emergency and urged residents to stay off the roads.

Before any snow actually accumulated in the city, the NFL moved the Philadelphia Eagles' game against the Minnesota Vikings from Sunday night to Tuesday because of “public safety concerns.” Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, who does football commentaries after Eagles games, was not amused and said fans could have handled it.

“This is football; football's played in bad weather,” Rendell told KYW-TV. “I, for one, was looking forward to sitting in the stands throughout the snow and seeing an old-time football game.”

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Retailers roll out sales as snow hits East Coast

ATLANTA (AP)—An East Coast snowstorm put a damper on after-Christmas shopping Sunday. But shoppers across the rest of the country searched clearance racks and spent gift cards in the afterglow of the best holiday season for retailers since 2007. Blizzard warnings stretched from New Jersey to Maine. Forecasters expected up to 20 inches of snow in Philadelphia and Boston and up to 16 inches in New York City. “The forecast will tend to keep (shoppers) at home. It's not the best day for shop-

ping,” said Scott A. Bernhardt, chief operating officer at weather research firm Planalytics. The storm had malls from the Carolinas through New Jersey closing early, including MacArthur Center in Norfolk, Va., and three Tanger Outlets centers in Delaware and on Long Island, N.Y.

China's Wen seeks to assure public about inflation

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao tried Sunday to reassure the public about the government's ability to control inflation, a day after China raised interest

rates amid worries that rising prices could hurt social stability. Wen's remarks underscore the government's concerns about anger over inflation—an especially sensitive topic in a society where poor families spend up to half their incomes on food. Rising incomes have helped offset price hikes, but inflation undercuts economic gains that help support the ruling Communist Party's claim to power.

Icy rain shuts down Moscow's airport, power lines

MOSCOW (AP)—Icy rain on Sunday shut down Moscow's

largest airport for nearly 15 hours, coated roads with ice and left more than 300,000 people and 14 hospitals without electricity in winter. The rain struck the city Saturday night. Workers are scrambling to restore the power supply after heavy ice snapped power lines, Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said. Moscow's Domodedovo airport closed Sunday morning after it lost power. No planes were allowed to land or take off for 15 hours until the airport opened for outbound flights to several domestic destinations. The airport's full power supply has not been restored yet.

Nation

Man quits job, makes living suing e-mail spammers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Daniel Balsam hates spam. Most everybody does, of course. But he has acted on his hate as few have, going far beyond simply hitting the delete button. He sues them.

Eight years ago, Balsam was working as a marketer when he received one too many e-mail pitches to enlarge his breasts.

Enraged, he launched a Web site called Danhatesspam.com, quit a career in marketing to go to law school and is making a decent living suing companies who flood his e-mail inboxes with offers of cheap drugs, free sex and unbelievable vacations.

"I feel like I'm doing a little bit of good cleaning up the Internet," Balsam said.

From San Francisco Superior Court small claims court to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Balsam, based in San Francisco, has filed many lawsuits, including dozens before he graduated law school in 2008, against e-mail marketers he says violate anti-spamming laws.

His many victories are mere rain drops in the ocean considering that Cisco Systems Inc. estimates that there are 200 billion spam messages circulating a day, accounting for 90 percent of all e-mail.

Still, Balsam settles enough lawsuits and collects enough from judgments to make a living. He has racked up well in excess of \$1 million in court judgments and lawsuit settlements with companies accused



AP
In this Dec. 22, 2010 photo, attorney Daniel Balsam, who hates spam so much that he launched a website, Danhatesspam.com, poses outside in San Francisco.

of sending illegal spam.

His courtroom foes contend that Balsam is one of many sole practitioners unfairly exploiting anti-spam sentiments and laws. They accuse him of filing lawsuits against out-of-state companies that would rather pay a

small settlement than expend the resources to fight the legal claims.

"He really seems to be trying to twist things for a buck," said Bennett Kelley, a defense lawyer who has become Balsam's arch nemesis over the years in the rough-

Citing police abuse, Hispanics leaving Conn. town

EAST HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Santiago Malave has worked law enforcement jobs in Connecticut for more than four decades, but as a Puerto Rican, he says he cannot drive through his own town without worrying about police harassing him.

Malave, a probation officer who works in New Haven, says the racial abuse is so bad that he only crosses the town line into East Haven to go home. He and his wife are now preparing to sell their house and move, joining an exodus of Hispanics who say police have hassled them with traffic stops, false arrests and even jailhouse beatings.

The Justice Department has started a civil rights investigation, and the FBI recently opened a criminal probe. But that has not changed things on Main Street, where restaurants and stores that cater to Hispanics are going out of business.

If the goal of police was to ruin East Haven's Hispanic community, some grudgingly say they have succeeded.

"We can't tolerate the town anymore," said Malave, 64. "For us to leave our beautiful

home is something that hurts, but we can't deal with these people."

Racial profiling allegations began swirling about two years ago in East Haven, a predominantly Italian-American seaside suburb of about 28,000 people 70 miles northeast of New York City. Hispanics make up only about 7 percent of the population, but their numbers had been growing as the peaceful, small-town setting and thriving businesses attracted newcomers from Mexico and Ecuador.

Police Chief Leonard Gallo, who is on administrative leave, has denied the allegations. The office of acting Police Chief Gaetano Nappi referred calls to Town Attorney Patricia Cofrancesco, who did not respond to phone messages seeking comment.

Hispanic business owners say police made a practice of parking outside their shops and stopping any Latinos. Some who complained say they faced retaliation.

Luis Rodriguez, an immigrant from Ecuador who owns the Los Amigos Grocery, said he was arrested two months ago

and jailed for five days after a woman pointed out to police that his 3-year-old son was unsupervised on the sidewalk outside the store. He said police were out for revenge because his wife had been videotaping them. He was charged with child neglect; the case is still pending.

Meanwhile, his store is up for sale. Ecuadoreans used to travel from as far as Massachusetts for jalapenos, Ecuadorean sodas and other specialty products. But Rodriguez said police have scared customers away by threatening to alert immigration authorities if they ever saw them in town again.

"If I had known the police in East Haven are so much trouble I never would have invested so much money here," said Rodriguez, 41, who has put more than \$120,000 into the store.

The Justice Department's civil rights branch began investigating the police force in September 2009. It is still looking into alleged discriminatory policing, but it identified preliminary concerns in April over issues including outdated policies and a lack of clear guidance on the use of force.

and-tumble litigation niche that has sprung up around spam.

Kelley created a website with a similar name, Danhatespam.com, that was critical of Balsam's tactics. Kelley let it expire.

"There is nothing wrong per se with being an anti-spam crusader," said Kelley, who has sued Balsam twice for allegedly violating confidentiality terms in settlement agreements. "But Dan abuses the processes by using small claims court."

"A lot of people will settle with him to avoid the hassle," Kelley said.

Balsam started small in 2002 in small claims court. By 2008, some of his cases were appearing before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal and he was graduating from the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

"What started just as kicks turned into a hobby, which turned into a career," Balsam said. "It's what triggered me to go to law school."

Balsam mostly sues companies he accuses of violating California's anti-spam law.

Among other restrictions, the law prohibits companies from sending spam with headers that misleads the recipient into believing the e-mail is noncommercial or comes with offers of "free" products that aren't true.

The law also requires a way for Internet consumers to "opt out" of receiving any more spam from a sender.

Balsam said he has more than 40 small claims victories and several more in higher courts, mostly alleging the receipt of misleading advertising.

In November, he won a

\$4,000 judgment against Various Inc., an "adult-oriented" social media company that controls AdultFriendFinder.com.

A judge sided with Balsam, who sued after he received four identical e-mails sent to four different accounts with the identical subject line "Hello my name is Rebecca, I love you." It's the fourth time he's beat Various in court.

The company is appealing the latest ruling and a hearing is scheduled for Jan. 5 in San Francisco Superior Court.

Balsam certainly isn't the average Internet consumer.

When San Mateo Superior Court Judge Marie Weiner in March ordered Trancos Inc. to pay Balsam \$7,000 for sending spam that recipients couldn't stop, she noted that he has more than 100 e-mail addresses.

Bighorn sheep start new year in new Texas home

BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK, Texas (AP)—Dozens of majestic bighorn sheep have moved into a Texas state park as part of wildlife restoration efforts aimed at returning the sheep to their historic range.

Twelve curly-horned rams and 34 ewes plucked by helicopter from one rugged area of West Texas now call the Bofecillos Mountains along the Rio Grande in Big Bend Ranch State Park home. The capture and release days before Christmas was the latest step in a decades-long restoration project to bring the mountain sheep back to their range after unfettered hunting, fencing and disease from other animals decimated their numbers.

All but gone from Texas by the 1960s from more than 1,500 in the late 1800s, efforts to restore them in Texas' Trans-Pecos region have proved successful. This fall, Texas Parks

and Wildlife Department biologists tallied 1,115 sheep in Texas, up from 822 in 2006 and 352 in 2002.

The 29 sheep captured on the first of the two-day endeavor sprang away from the trailers and crates they traveled inside for about 80 miles and quickly scampered up one mountain's steep terrain. About 80 volunteers, conservation supporters and state and federal wildlife officials cheered them on and applauded.

Soon one could see only a parade of white-gray dots bounding near the top of their first mountain in their new home. The release was their first reintroduction into a Texas state park.

"The bighorn belong here," Mike Pittman, the area's wildlife manager, said Tuesday. "They're part of the ecosystem."

Bighorn sheep, which can bounce up to 20 feet from ledge

to ledge, some as narrow as 2 inches, prefer bluffs and steep slopes with sparse vegetation and an unobstructed view. They can travel up to 30 mph on level ground and 15 mph up steep mountain slopes. Rams fighting for mates often butt heads for hours during breeding season, which begins in November.

The 46 animals needed to be moved from Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area, about 25 miles south of Alpine, a small town of about 6,500, because of a surplus of sheep for the available habitat. Most of the ewes are pregnant and will lamb in several months, officials said.

Work began early the first day as the helicopter scoured the top of Elephant Mountain. Trappers in the chopper fired net-guns on top of each sheep, which then were hobbled and blindfolded for the ride back to the work areas.

ACROSS THE NATION

Stuck freighter free in Mich. with help of 7 tugs

GROSSE ILE, Mich. (AP)—Seven tugboats have succeeded in freeing a 579-foot coal-hauling Great Lakes freighter that was grounded for two days in the Detroit River south of Detroit. The McKee ran aground Friday near Grosse Ile while trying to dock at a DTE Energy Co. site. The freighter came from Cleveland with a load of 11,900 tons of coal and a crew of 17. It has a hauling capacity of 29,500 tons. The U.S. Coast Guard says efforts to free the freighter resumed Sunday after a Christmas break.

Sheriff: No injuries in Okla. refinery explosion

WYNNEWOOD, Okla. (AP)—Oklahoma authorities say a small explosion at an oil refinery has shaken the city of Wynnewood but no one was injured. Thick smoke poured into the sky from a fire that followed the blast about 6:50 a.m. Sunday. Garvin County Sheriff Larry Rhodes says some roads in the area of the Wyn-

newood Refining Co. were closed after the explosion but reopened within about an hour and a half. Wynnewood Refining is owned by Denver-based Gary-Williams Energy.

3 Wyo. ski crash victims weren't wearing helmets

CASPER, Wyo. (AP)—The manager for Hogadon (HO'-guh-dun) Ski Area says none of the three people involved in a Christmas Eve skiing collision that killed two of them was wearing a helmet. Officials say a 22-year-old man was snowboarding at a high speed Friday afternoon when he collided with a 5-year-old girl and her mother who were stopped in the middle of the black diamond Dreadnaught run, which is rated difficult. The man and girl died. Ski area manager Gary Vantrease said Sunday the girl's mother was hospitalized in critical condition. No names were immediately released. Vantrease says no one was wearing a helmet, and witnesses said they didn't see the snowboarder try to slow down.

Asia

PH rebels threaten attacks despite talks

MOUNT DIWATA, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels threatened more attacks Sunday despite looming peace talks with the Philippine government, as they marked the insurgency's 42nd anniversary by defiantly marching with their weapons in public view.

Aside from targeting government forces, New People's Army guerrillas—one of Asia's most resilient Maoist forces, withstanding decades of military crackdowns—also threatened to step up attacks against mining companies, accusing them of destroying the environment and exploiting workers.

"Despite the peace talks, we will go on with the revolt," regional rebel spokesman Jorge Madlos told journalists in a farming village at the foothills of the Diwata mountain range in Surigao del Sur province, about 530 miles (860 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

The government and the rebels have agreed to resume peace talks after six years in February, and chief government negotiator Alexander Padilla sounded optimistic early this week, citing promises by the new reformist president to address rebel concerns.

Amid a Christmas ceasefire, about 80 young guerrillas marched in public through this rice-growing village, brandishing M16 assault rifles, grenade launchers and other weapons to celebrate the Dec. 26, 1968, founding of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines.

On a makeshift wooden stage festooned with a huge red cloth emblazoned with the hammer and sickle communist symbol, rebels sang nationalist songs and guerrilla speakers revved up the more than 2,000 farmers, villagers and sympathizers. The hilly village is tucked

about a mile (1.6 kilometers) away from a main road, where army troops stood guard in an outpost and listed the names of villagers streaming in to attend the ceremony.

"It's scary at first but later, you gain confidence when you think that you're fighting for the people," said Johnny Buyo, a 19-year-old who joined the guerrilla movement six months ago.

An M16 rifle slung on his tiny frame, Buyo guarded the rebel ceremony, wearing muddy boots and mingling with other young guerrillas. Nearby, parents, siblings and friends used the occasion to reunite with rebels, who came down from a mountain stronghold, embracing each other and exchanging stories and cell phone numbers. An emotion-gripped mother said she saw her son for the first time after he joined the rebellion 10 years ago.

A new generation of fighters ensures that the revolution will continue, said Madlos, a 62-year-old rebel known for his trademark Mao-style cap and goatee. "I'm happy knowing that with them, the rebellion will go on," he said.

Engendered by the Cold War

in the late 1960s, the rural-based insurrection has emerged as this Southeast Asian nation's most serious security menace, stoked by decades of poverty, agrarian unrest, government corruption and misrule. Five presidents have failed to crush the Maoist rebellion, which has killed at

least 120,000 combatants and civilians.

The party dates from its split from an older Communist group at a conference Dec. 26, 1968, in northern Pangasinan province. That date also was the 75th birthday of China's Mao Tse-Tung.



AP

Communist New People's Army militants march in unison past local residents and supporters during the celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010 on Mount Diwata in southern Philippines.

Thousands fear hunger after Pakistan bombing

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—Some 300,000 desperately poor villagers impoverished by fighting in Pakistan's tribal belt are scrambling to feed themselves after a female suicide bomber killed 45 people outside a World Food Program food distribution center, triggering a district wide suspension of the relief project.

Pakistan says the attack is a sign of insurgent desperation, but the bombing and ongoing battles challenge Islamabad's claims of victory over al-Qaida and the Taliban in this part of the porous northwest border.

WFP district coordinator Shahab Khan said on Sunday that all four food relief centers run by the United Nations agency in the Bajur district had been shut indefinitely since Saturday's bombing in the area's main town of Khar.

The WFP project in Bajur feeds 41,000 families—or 300,000 people—who returned to the district from camps for

the displaced elsewhere in the country, even though their livelihoods having been ruined by fighting between Pakistan troops and insurgents.

Painda Khan, a 48-year-old farmer who abandoned his crops months ago, said his family of 11 was now desperate for their rations of rice, flour, lentils, cooking oil and high-energy biscuits that he had been going to pick up on Monday.

"We have been borrowing food from neighbors for the last five days," said Khan, adding that his family last received supplies on Nov. 25.

Gul Karim Khan, a 53-year-old who provides for a family of 10, had also found himself robbed of options by the closing of the supply centers.

"We are getting into very tough times," he said. "We don't have any idea what we will do in the days ahead if we don't get aid."

While food relief centers out-

side Bajur are still functional, WFP official Amjad Jamal said the displaced villagers were not eligible for food rations from outside the district.

"We are trying to resume supplies at the earliest possible opportunity," said Jamal, adding that it was too early to suggest a date. "We are most concerned for the children in these areas because the majority are already malnourished."

Bajur and other parts of the tribal regions are of major concern to the U.S. because they have been safe havens for militants fighting NATO and American troops across the border in Afghanistan. The U.S. has long pressured Pakistan to clear the area of insurgents.

The top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus, told The Associated Press that Pakistan's "impressive" counterinsurgency efforts against armed groups must be recognized.

SKorea vows retaliation if North attacks again

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president vowed a relentless retaliation against North Korea if provoked again, saying Monday he is not afraid of a war with the communist North.

The two Koreas have ramped up their rhetoric since North Korea shelled front-line Yeonpyeong Island near the tense western sea border last month, killing four South Koreans. Both sides accuse each other of provoking first.

On Monday, President Lee Myung-bak used much of his regular radio address to vow to get tougher with any new provocation by North Korea.

"We have now been awakened to the realization that war can be prevented and peace assured only when such provocations are met with a strong response," Lee said. "Fear of war is never helpful in preventing war."

He said South Korea's military "must respond relentlessly when they come under attack."

Lee urged South Koreans to be more united on national security because North Korea tries to take advantage of any divisions in public opinions in the South.

"There can be no difference between you and me when it comes to national security be-



AP

A South Korean border guard patrols the fence-line covered with a camouflage net at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea, Friday, Dec. 24, 2010.

cause our lives and the survival of the nation depend on it," he said. "They always have their eyes open to take advantage of any opportunity if they detect any divisiveness in our minds and thoughts."

South Korea has staged a series of military drills—including one on Yeonpyeong Island on Dec. 20—in a show of force against the North since its Nov. 23 artillery bombardment. The South also has threatened airstrikes if hit again, ordered more troops on front-line islands and is pushing for upgraded rules of engagement to allow for a more forceful response to future provocations.

North Korea, for its part, has also kept up rhetoric around last Friday's 19th anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il's appointment as the North's supreme military commander. Kim's military chief threatened last week to launch a "sacred" nuclear war against the South.

The North's main newspaper issued a warning Monday that South Korea's recent exercises are "reckless military provocation" that could lead to the South to face a self-destruction. "There is limit in our patience," said the Redoing Sinmun commentary carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Bus, van collide in India, killing 35, injuring 14

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—A bus collided head-on with a van that was carrying mourners returning from a funeral in northern India, killing 35 people, police and a news report said Sunday. State police official D.Y.S. Chauhan said another 14 people in the two vehicles were injured in the accident Saturday near Badaun, a town in Uttar Pradesh state. The bus driver was among those killed, he said.

3 Singapore tourists drown as Malaysia boat sinks

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Three Singaporean tourists drowned and two others were missing Sunday after an overloaded passenger boat capsized near a Malaysian resort island, police said. The wooden vessel was

transporting nearly 30 people to a mainland port after leaving Malaysia's southern Sibu island, one of the diving zones closest to neighboring Singapore, district police chief Mohammad Nor Rashid said.

Quake shakes New Zealand, causing minor damage

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Masonry and glass rained down near post-Christmas shoppers as a magnitude 4.9 earthquake rocked Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island on Sunday. No one was injured, but at least 20 buildings in the city's center were damaged by the temblor, which scientists said was the latest of hundreds of aftershocks since a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Christchurch on Sept. 4. That quake caused extensive damage and a handful of injuries, but no deaths.

World

Ivory Coast general strike called to oust Gbagbo

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Allies of the man who the international community says won Ivory Coast's disputed presidential election called Sunday for a general strike that would last until the incumbent hanging on to power concedes defeat and leaves office.

It was the latest form of pressure to try to force Laurent Gbagbo from the presidency nearly a month after the United Nations said his political rival, Alassane Ouattara, won the runoff vote. Gbagbo has refused to leave despite international calls for his ouster, and West African leaders say they now will remove him by force if he fails to go.

In an interview with Associated Press Television News on Sunday, Gbagbo said he was not concerned about world opinion, insisting he was duly elected. He said of his detractors: "Maybe they do not want me, I admit it, but I am not looking to be loved by them. I respect and abide by the Ivorians' vote."

Djedje Mady, the head of Ouattara's electoral coalition, said it called on "all Ivorians and those who live in Ivory Coast and believe in peace and justice to cease all their activities on Monday, December 27, 2010, until Laurent Gbagbo leaves power."

The U.N. has said at least 173 people have been killed in violence over the vote, heightening fears that the country once divided in two could return to civil war. The toll is believed to be much higher, though, as the U.N. mission has been blocked from investigating other reports, including an allegation of a mass grave.

On Sunday, the interior minister appointed by Gbagbo accused the U.N. of only telling

half the story. Emile Guirieuou said that at least 36 of the victims were police or other security forces who "were targeted by gunfire coming from the protesters."

Guirieuou also alleged that the thousands of refugees arriving in Liberia had fled violence perpetrated by rebels who support Ouattara. The U.N. refugee agency says at least 14,000 people have fled the violence and political chaos in Ivory Coast, some walking for up to four

days with little food to reach neighboring Liberia. At least one child drowned while trying to cross a river.

Gbagbo has been in power since 2000 and had already overstayed his mandate by five years when the long-delayed presidential election was finally held in October. The vote was intended to help reunify the country, which was divided by the 2002-2003 civil war into a rebel-controlled north and a loyalist south.



Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo speak during an exclusive interview at his residence in Abidjan, Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010.

Christmas weekend violence kills 38 in Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Dozens of armed men attacked the church, dragging the pastor out of his home and shooting him to death. Two young men from the choir rehearsing for a late-night carol service also were slain.

The group of about 30 attackers armed with guns and knives even killed two people passing by Victory Baptist Church. The assailants only left after setting the church and pastor's house ablaze.

Danjuma Akawu, the church's secretary, managed to escape after he and others climbed over the church's fence.

"I cannot understand these attacks," Akawu said. "Why Christians? Why Christians? The police have failed to protect us."

At the opposite end of the city, Rev. Haskanda Jessu said that three men attacked the Church of Christ in Nigeria an

hour later, killing a 60-year-old security guard.

At least 38 people died in Christmas Eve attacks across Nigeria, including the six killed at churches in the country's north by suspected members of a radical Muslim sect. In central Nigeria, 32 died in a series of bomb blasts in the worst violence to hit the region in months.

Authorities have not identified suspects following the Christmas Eve explosions in Jos and it was not immediately clear if those attacks had a religious motive. Two of the bombs went off near a large market where people were doing last-minute Christmas shopping. A third hit a mainly Christian area of Jos, while the fourth was near a road that leads to the city's main mosque.

On Sunday, there were reports of renewed violence in the area, though no official figures were released on the number

of people who may have been wounded or killed.

Police have not said whether they believe the bombings were related to the church attacks. The two areas are about 320 miles (520 kilometers) apart.

The group blamed for the church attacks—the radical Muslim sect known as Boko Haram—used to be based in Bauchi, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) from the area where the bombs went off. The group is now headquartered in Maiduguri, where the church attacks took place.

The African Union Commission's Chairman, Jean Ping, expressed shock and sadness at the explosions in Jos and church attacks in Maiduguri.

"He condemns in the strongest terms these cowardly terrorist attacks, which cannot be justified under any circumstances," said a statement released by his office Sunday.

Ivory Coast

In the Ivory Coast's first presidential election in 10 years, both candidates declared victory.

- New Forces, Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara**
- Government, President Laurent Gbagbo**

Tough times

1990s Slipped into internal conflicts after death of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny

2002 Armed rebellion splits country between rebel north and government south

2007 Power-sharing government; ex-rebel leader as prime minister

Source: ESRI, BBC, CIA World FactBook
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2010 MCT

Disputed 2010 election

Oct. 31 First round of presidential election; neither win majority

Nov. Run-off ballot

Dec. 2 Election commission says Ouattara wins with 54.1 percent; Constitutional Council rejects results, declares Gbagbo winner; U.N. endorses Ouattara as winner

Dec. 16 Pro-Gbagbo and pro-Ouattara forces wage gun battles; at least 20 people killed

Dec. 18 Gbagbo demands UN and French forces leave; demand rejected

Israeli foreign minister: peace is 'impossible'

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's foreign minister said Sunday a peace deal with the Palestinians is impossible under current conditions and that Israel should pursue a lesser deal instead—a concept the Palestinians swiftly rejected.

The latest diplomatic spat between the two sides came as violence along the Israel-Gaza border simmered. After days of accelerated Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel and Israeli airstrikes in response, Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinians on the border early Sunday.

Avigdor Lieberman, the Israeli foreign minister, told a conference of Israeli diplomats that instead of a full peace deal, Israel should seek a long-term, interim agreement on security and economic matters. Palestinians have consistently rejected that approach.

"It's not only that it is impossible" to reach an overall agreement, he said. "It is simply forbidden."

Lieberman said the West Bank Palestinian Authority—with whom Israel has pledged to negotiate—is "not legitimate" because it has postponed elections. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas remains in office though his term expired almost a year ago, and there is no date for a new election.

Lieberman is known for expressing hard-line views that don't always represent Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who says he seeks a negotiated, final peace deal with the Palestinians but has declined to give specifics.

A statement from Netanyahu's office said Lieberman's comments reflect "his person-

al positions," not those of the government.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority broke down in September after an Israeli freeze on settlement construction expired.

The Palestinians say they will not negotiate as long as Israel builds homes for Jews in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, lands the Palestinians claim for a future state.

U.S. mediators have returned to indirect talks to seek a way out of the impasse.

Palestinian Authority spokesman Ghassan Khatib rejected Lieberman's comments, saying most world governments—including Israel's—recognize the Palestinian Authority as legitimate. He said the Palestinians would not accept an interim agreement.

WORLD BRIEFS

Al-Qaida threat on Iraq Christians linked to Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—The wives of two Egyptian Coptic priests, forbidden by the Church from divorcing their abusive husbands, desperately sought another way out by converting to Islam. When their intentions were discovered, police handed them over to the Church and their whereabouts since have been unknown. The cases caused a furor at home that spilled over the borders and turned deadly when al-Qaida in Iraq cited the women as the reason behind the bloodiest attack ever on Christians in Iraq—a five-hour siege of a church in October that left 68 people dead. It was a stark example of the schism between Christians and Muslims that runs through the Middle East and periodically

erupts into violence.

Family fails to meet detained journalists in Iran

BERLIN (AP)—Relatives of two German journalists detained in Iran since October were disappointed Sunday after traveling to Tehran in hopes of seeing them during the Christmas holidays, but the reporters' employer said Iranian officials had promised to arrange a meeting Monday. Germany's mass-circulation tabloid Bild said late Sunday that the reporter's sister and the photographer's mother would finally be able to meet with the journalists at an undisclosed location in Tehran, the Iranian capital. The pair, who have not been identified by name, were reporting on a highly publicized stoning case when they were arrested.

Focus

In Illinois, a pharmacist closes his business because of late Medicaid payments. In Arizona, a young father's liver transplant is canceled because Medicaid suddenly won't pay for it. In California, dentists pull teeth that could be saved because Medicaid doesn't pay for root canals.

Across the country, state lawmakers have taken harsh actions to try to rein in the budget-busting costs of the health care program that serves 58 million poor and disabled Americans. Some states have cut payments to doctors, paid bills late and trimmed benefits such as insulin pumps, obesity surgery and hospice care.

Lawmakers are bracing for more work when they reconvene in January. Some states face multibillion-dollar deficits. Federal stimulus money for Medicaid is soon to evaporate. And Medicaid enrollment has never been higher because of job losses.

In the view of some lawmakers, Medicaid has become a monster, and it's eating the budget. In Illinois, Medicaid sucks up more money than elementary, secondary and higher education combined.

"Medicaid is such a large, complicated part of our budget problem, that to get our hands around it is very difficult. It's that big. It's that bad," said Illinois Sen. Dale Righter, a Republican and co-chairman of a bipartisan panel



In this Nov. 16, 2010 file photo, Francisco Felix sits with his wife Flor surrounded by their daughters, 12-year-old Carmen, 2-year-old Carla, 10-year-old Jessica and 3-and-a-half-year-old Jennifer in their Laveen, Ariz. home as they fill out paperwork for the National Transplant Assistance Fund. Francisco's liver transplant was canceled because Medicaid suddenly would not pay for it.

AP

Medicaid cuts: teeth pulled, transplant called off

to reform Medicaid in Illinois, where nearly 30 percent of total spending goes to the program.

Medicaid costs are shared by the federal and state governments. It's not just the poor and disabled who benefit. Wealthier people do, too, such as when middle-class families with elderly parents in nursing homes are relieved of financial pressure after Medicaid starts picking up the bills.

Contrary to stereotype, it's the elderly and disabled who cost nearly 70 cents of every Medicaid dollar, not the single mother and her children.

In California, Medicaid no longer pays for many adult dental services. But it still pays for extractions, that is, tooth-pulling. The unintended consequence: Medicaid patients tell dentists to pull teeth that could be saved.

"The roots are fine. The tooth could be saved with a root canal," said Dr. Nagaraj Murthy, who practices in Compton, Calif. "I had a patient yesterday. I said we could do a root canal. He said, 'No, it's hurting. Go ahead and pull it. I don't have the money.'"

Murthy recently pulled an elderly woman's last tooth, but Medicaid no longer pays for dentures.

"Elderly patients suffer the most," Murthy said. "They're walking around with no teeth."

States can decide which optional

services Medicaid covers, and dental care is among cutbacks in some places. Last year's economic stimulus package increased the federal share of Medicaid money temporarily. But that money runs out at the end of June, when the federal government will go back to paying half the costs

means states can't roll up the welcome mat by tightening Medicaid's income requirements.

So states have resorted to a variety of painful options.

In Arizona, lawmakers stopped paying for some kinds of transplants, including livers for people with hepatitis

"They are taking away his opportunity to live," said his wife, Flor Felix. "It's impossible for us or any family to get that much money." The family is collecting donations through a website and plans a yard sale this weekend, she said.

The choices are difficult for states

is pretty lean, and payment rates are pretty low," she said. Patients can't find care because fewer doctors accept the low payments.

Prescription drug coverage in states is an optional benefit, another possible place to cut, Rowland said. "But if you cut back on people's psychotropic drugs, is that penny-wise and pound-foolish? Do they end up in institutions where Medicaid pays more for their care?"

In Illinois, late payments became the rule.

Tom Miller closed his pharmacy in rural southern Illinois this summer and is going through bankruptcy, largely because the state was chronically late making Medicaid payments to him. Most of his former customers are in the program.

With the state sometimes months behind in payments, he couldn't pay his suppliers. Five workers lost their jobs when his business closed.

"You can only fight it for so long," said Miller, 54. He now works as a pharmacist in a hospital. He misses his old clients, the families he grew to know.

"I was in my third generation. I've had moms who had kids. I saw the kids raised, and they had their own children," he said. As a neighborhood pharmacist, "you're their friend. You're family."

Elderly patients suffer the most. They're walking around with no teeth.

rather than 60 to 70 percent. So more cuts could be ahead.

During the Great Recession, millions of people relied on the Medicaid safety net. Between 2007 and 2009, the number of uninsured Americans grew by more than 5 million as workers lost jobs with employer-based insurance. Another 7 million signed up for Medicaid.

Just when caseloads hit their highest point, the nation's new health care law required states not to change the rules on who's eligible for Medicaid. That

C. When the cuts took effect Oct. 1, Medicaid patient Francisco Felix, who needs a liver, suddenly had to raise \$500,000 to get a transplant.

The 32-year-old's case took a dramatic turn in November when a friend's wife died, and her liver became available. Felix was prepped for surgery in hopes financial donations would come in. When the money didn't materialize, the liver went to someone else, and Felix went home. His doctor told him he has a year before he'll be too sick for a transplant.

that have already cut payments to doctors and hospitals to the bone.

"If we don't see an economic recovery where state revenues rebound, they're really going to be very strained on how they can make ends meet," said Diane Rowland, executive director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

States may consider lowering payment rates to nursing homes or home health agencies or further reducing payments to doctors, Rowland said.

"The problem here is the program

Overdrive

2011 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE

Still a pit bull, but with a gentler side

By BARRY SPYKER
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

For me, it's personal. The Jeep Grand Cherokee and I go back to 1996. I cherished my Cherokee and its trouble-free performance for six years; my daughter later took it to high school, color-guard saber and rifle in tow, and then even to the university for a year.

Oh, she complained about its rugged look and feel, and called it a name I won't repeat here. But it was cheaper than buying her own car so she lovingly inherited it. Today she drives a Jeep Liberty—but catches herself admiring the 2011 Grand Cherokee.

Maybe father does still know best.

Truth is, I've been anticipating the 2011 edition of the Grand, and I can safely say I am 95 percent thrilled. I'll get to the 5 percent later.

The Grand Cherokee this year takes a giant step forward in class. Heck, Motor Trend even matched it up against a Land Rover LR4 in a comparison test.

It's built on a Mercedes M-Class platform, for starters, and has a smoother, sleeker exterior than the previous generation. Its brakes and suspension system also have Mercedes fingerprints on them.

And its interior is flush with finer materials and amenities. Add to that a quieter, more refined and comfortable ride and you have a pit bull—with a nice disposition.

Seats are on the firm side but comfortable. Know that this is a two-row five-seater, so you have to look else-



The 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: \$30,995

As tested: \$39,995 (V-6 Limited with 4-wheel-drive)

where for more passenger space—say, the new Ford Explorer, with whom Cherokee started the SUV craze in the early '90s, or the Dodge Durango.

The beneficiaries of two rows of seats are the back-seat passengers. There are four more inches of legroom this year, and it's wonderfully noticeable. Plus, rear-seaters can adjust the seatback now.

The center stack and instrument layout are pretty much unchanged, and that's a good thing. Designers, fortunately, recognized they already had a nice layout. The fit and finish

of it all is improved, however. In fact, I'd call it outstanding.

The Grand's cabin is quieter than ever thanks to tighter suspension and better insulation, including a new firewall separating the engine and cabin, says Jeep.

Two engines are available: A 3.6-liter aluminum V-6 gets 280 horsepower and is all one needs for most occasions. If it's extra towing capacity you seek, up to 7,400 pounds, the 5.7-liter V-8 Hemi adds another 80 horses to the equation.

Both are mated to a five-speed automatic, which shifts smoothly enough despite some critics out there.

On the road and highways—where most drivers will spend their time—the Grand is smooth-riding and comfortable.

Cherokee steering remains a bit dull for my taste but it's always been that way and I've lived with it for years. Parking and U-turns area a cinch with a nice, tight 39-foot turning radius.

Acceleration is moderate, in the 8-second range. And mileage remains unimpressive as always: 13 city, 16 highway with the Hemi, 19-23 with the V-6.

Off the road, Jeep is always ready

to rumble. But choosing your terrain is easier than ever: A rotary dial operates Jeep's new Selec-Terrain system. It's available on four-wheel-drive Laredos and standard on the four-wheel-drive Limited and Overland models. The system adjusts the behavior of the engine, suspension and traction for top efficiency on sand, mud and rock.

Rear-wheel-drive is available, too. But Jeep says most Grands will get one of its three four-wheel-drive systems: Quadra-Trac I is the baby, offering 52 percent torque in the rear. Quadra-Trac II is the better choice for off-roading with a two-speed transfer case that permits climbing over the big rocks.

Top-line is the Quadra-Drive II which adds a limited-slip differential. And an optional Quadra-Life air suspension adjusts ride height to one of five levels—up to 13.2 inches—to handle the roughest of terrain.

Aside from the steering, the other thing in the aforementioned 5 percent segment is its return to a softer, rounder look. I liked the angular design that came with the previous restyle. Apparently, others thought otherwise. It still looks decent, just a bit rounded.

Beyond the base V-6 rear-wheel drive, step up to more luxury with the Limited version or get more rugged with the trail-tested Overland.

The Grand Cherokee is not and never was a fun-to-drive, spirited ride on the road. But it's smoother than ever for your daily commute and can hang with the best of 'em when it comes to hills and boulders.

That's right, little girl, listen to dad once in a while.

QUESTION: We have a 2006 Pontiac Grand Prix with 38,500 miles. Out of the blue, the "Service ABS" and "Service Traction" warning lights came on. I did check fuses and disconnected the battery for 30 minutes—someone told me that would reset the computer—but the problems are still there. Is it safe to drive? The brakes seem to work just fine.

ANSWER: It may be safe to drive, but head to the dealer or shop right away. The warning lights indicate the ABS or traction-control systems have been disabled due to some type of problem. Disconnecting the battery will reboot the vehicle's computer, but the warning lights will re-illuminate if the issue is still there.

If the warning lights stay on after the initial self test, the most likely cause is a loss of "communication" with one of the ABS wheel speed sensors. If the warning lights go off after the self test and then come back on when you drive or apply the brakes, there may be a more serious issue.

Your next step is to have a shop connect a scan tool and read any fault codes stored in the computer. This will pinpoint the precise problem with the ABS or traction-control systems.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have issues with the idle speed at start-up on my 2007 Toyota Solara. When started cold, it idles at

about 1,600 rpm. It takes several minutes for it to slowly idle down to 900 rpm when warm. I believe this is too high, especially in winter when the oil is thicker. Two Toyota dealers say this is normal. Do you agree?

A: The initial start-up idle "flare" of 1,600 rpm is certainly in the normal range. Carmakers have programmed engine management systems to idle up at start-up to heat up the catalytic converter as quickly as possible. This allows the system to shift "open loop"

Last winter on occasion when I would start the car after it sat all night there would be no oil pressure—the gauge would not move at all and the "check gauges" light would be on. I immediately turned off the Jeep for fear that there was no oil circulating through the engine. I checked the oil level and it was always within the normal range. I ended up starting and shutting off the Jeep from three to 10 times until it showed normal oil pressure. The problem went away

the gauge. Check connections and grounds in this circuit—that's where the problem is likely hiding.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: My 2002 Saturn L200 with 69,000 miles developed a loud rattling noise only at idle. When I accelerated slightly, the rattling would stop. It sounded like it was coming from the exhaust system. I suspected a piece of ceramic had broken off the catalytic converter. After several weeks, the noise went away.

Traction warning light not to be ignored

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

operation with a richer air/fuel mixture for starting and warm up to "closed loop" air/fuel mixtures trimmed by feedback from the oxygen sensor. This significantly reduces emissions and increases fuel economy.

With that said, Toyota specifies 630 to 730 rpm in neutral at idle after warm-up, which is measurably lower than you indicate.

It's difficult to say whether this is normal in extremely cold temperatures or if there could be something like a vacuum leak affecting idle speed.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4.7L V8 H0 with 125,000 miles.

over this past summer but has returned now that the temperature has dropped below 40 degrees again. Any ideas?

A: Almost certainly this is an electrical issue. The only mechanical possibility would be moisture/ice in the oil pan preventing the oil pickup tube from drawing oil up into the oil pump. If this were a serious loss-of-oil-pressure issue, the engine would have failed by now.

The oil pressure sensor, on the left front of the engine, sends a signal to the PCM (powertrain control module), which sends a signal to the instrument cluster circuit board which operates

Two weeks ago, the engine began to race going up inclines and seemed to lack power. The shop just phoned to say that the transmission failed because it overheated due to heat transfer from the overheated catalytic converter. Should I be looking for the root cause of the catalytic failure?

A: First off, remember that the federally mandated emissions warranty specifically covers the catalytic converter for eight years or 80,000 miles. Depending on the original date of service, your car might still be covered by this warranty. Most catalytic converters fail because of excessively rich fuel-air mixtures causing the catalyst/

oxidizing process to generate extremely high temperatures in the converter. Make sure the engine is reaching full operating temperature with normal air-fuel mixtures.

If the catalytic converter overheated from exhaust restriction, you'd have noticed a loss of power while driving, but not necessarily some type of slippage. It's possible the higher rpm occurred as the transmission downshifted due to the lack of engine power.

Second, since you could hear the rattle at idle, I suspect it was coming from a heat shield protecting the converter or exhaust system rather than the converter itself. Did your mechanic check to see if all heat shields are still in place?

Did the converter failure lead to the transmission failure? That's harder to say. I would have thought that you would have noticed symptoms of power loss long before any transmission damage would have occurred.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive trouble-shooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Paltrow: Boozin', fightin' and raisin' Cain

By **REBECCA KEEGAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gwyneth Paltrow is the kind of well-mannered celebrity who never—even in her gregarious 20s—raised eyebrows by wearing her skirts too short, swaying boozily on a bar top or kissing a man who wasn't her own. So it is with relish that the actress, now 38 and the kind of conscientious mother of two who coordinates play dates from 5,000 miles away, does all that misbehaving and more as a country star in her new movie, "Country Strong."

"My life is all responsibility," says Paltrow, shrugging into a hooded sweatshirt and kicking off her 3-inch heels after a performance to promote the film at Yahoo in Santa Monica. "An amazing thing about playing Kelly was this abandon that she had. I envied it in a way. I'm so organized and sometimes you feel like the responsibility you put on yourself is just gonna choke you. It was wonderful to play someone who, to everyone's detriment, just didn't have a care in the world."

Paltrow's Kelly Canter is a train wreck with platinum records—think Britney Spears a decade from now, plus some twang and minus the intervention. Pulled out of rehab prematurely by her husband-manager (played by country star Tim McGraw), Kelly attempts a comeback. But things get complicated when she takes a shine to a smoldering young man with a guitar (Garrett Hedlund of "Tron: Legacy") and faces some fresh-faced competition (Leighton Meester of "Gossip Girl").

Although she's best known lately for playing Iron Man's hyper-capable secretary



AP
Actress Gwyneth Paltrow touches her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame during dedication ceremonies in Los Angeles Monday, Dec. 13, 2010.

Pepper Potts, this is Paltrow's first major lead performance in seven years, since she became mother to Apple, now 6, and Moses, 4. It took a role that would require her to sing, dance, rage, weep and access her inner bad girl to lure the actress out of the life of protected domesticity she leads in London with her children and her husband, Coldplay vocalist Chris Martin.

"I've always been home and I want to raise my kids myself and you can't be starring in three movies a year. You know, it just

doesn't work," says Paltrow, who moved her family to Nashville for the five-week "Country Strong" shoot. "I went for a week by myself, 'cause I thought there's no way I can get into this character with my toddlers running around. You come home from playing drunk and sobbing and you're like, 'Hey, let's make a painting!' They're just two different worlds."

Writer-director Shana Feste said she cast the cosmopolitan Oscar winner as her fallen country star because of the actress's willingness to enter Kelly's turbulent reality. "I heard the love in her voice and I knew she wasn't gonna judge this character," says Feste. "Kelly does a lot of very bad things."

Among the worst is decking McGraw in a drunken tantrum, a scene Paltrow found excruciating to shoot. After multiple takes faking the punch, Feste and the actors agreed to try one for real. "Tim started being very combative with her and egging her on," Feste says. "She ended up whacking him and she started crying afterward."

The take was a keeper, but Paltrow was shaken. "I'd never hit anyone in my life, and I didn't like it at all," she says.

Compared to its emotional rigors, the role's musical demands were more straightforward. Paltrow, who had sung in the movies "Duets" and "Infamous," took guitar lessons while her children were in school. She watched Loretta Lynn videos and consulted famous friends such as Beyonce and McGraw's wife, Faith Hill, on everything from exuding magnetism to holding a microphone. (Curiously, Paltrow doesn't mention getting pointers from her musician husband, though he did write a song for the soundtrack.)



AP
This undated combination photo released Thursday Dec. 23, 2010 by the Royal Mint shows both sides of a commemorative £5 Alderney coin to mark Prince William and Kate Middleton's engagement.

That's Kate Middleton? Critics slam wedding coin

LONDON (AP)—That's Kate Middleton? Britain's Royal Mint has released a commemorative coin featuring portraits of Prince William and his bride-to-be, but critics said the results were far from lifelike.

Images of the couple on the memento bear little resemblance to either the prince or his 28-year-old betrothed. Middleton appears plump in the face and lips and has bags under her eyes, while some critics suggested William looks more like former U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

Available in silver or gold, the 5-pound (\$7.70) coin—which costs 9.99 pounds (\$15.40) to buy—marks the April 29 wedding of the second-in-line to the British throne.

"This coin is of historical

importance, to get it so wrong seems ridiculous," Ingrid Seward of Majesty magazine told Britain's Sky News.

The Royal Mint said the coin was designed by its in-house engraving team and insisted the portraits had gone through "a rigorous approval process." Both the Queen and Prince William had given their consent to the design and staff had used photos of the couple to produce the images, the mint said in a statement.

"The inspiration for the design came from photographs of the couple at a sporting event," the mint said.

Dickie Arbiter, a former royal spokesman, said it is often difficult to produce accurate images on a coin.

In Loving Memory

John Fujihira Duenas

February 6, 1967 - December 24, 2010

Was called by our Heavenly Father at the age of 43

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Antonio Palacios Duenas and Dolores Fujihira Duenas (Sachi)
Brother/Sister: Juan Fujihira Duenas & Ana Fujihira Duenas

His love and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Glenda E. Duenas
Children: Ray Anthony B. Duenas, Terrence John B. Duenas, John Jr. E. Duenas, Brandon E. Duenas and Trisha E. Duenas.

Brothers and Sisters:

Nieves D. Villapando (Arthur) & Children/Grand Children
Barbara F. Duenas & Children and Grand Children
Alice D. Tudela (Frank) - Children and Grand Children
Thomas F. Duenas
Maria D. Naputi (Antonio) & Children/Grand Children
Patricia D. Hocog & Children/Grand Children
William F. Duenas (Sue) & Children
Ramon F. Duenas (Joy)
Norbert F. Duenas (Gina)
Lourdes F. Duenas
Joseph F. Duenas (Nenette) & Children/Grand Children
Martin F. Duenas (Manette) & Children
Jessica F. Duenas & Children
Anette D. Camacho (Jose)

Additionally survived by many relatives and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at the San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. Rosary follows nightly at 7:00 p.m. at his residence in San Vicente. Last respect will be paid on Monday, January 3, 2010 starting at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Church.

Thank you very much from the family.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Natividad Tudela Castro

"Daling"

September 03, 1935 – December 24, 2010 was called home by our Father at the age of 75

Mass of intention is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral Church daily at 6:00a.m.

In her new life, Natividad will be met at the gate of heaven by her:

Father: †Agustin Sablan Tudela
Mother: †Elena Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero Tudela
Brothers: †Gregorio DLG. Tudela
†Rafael DLG. Tudela
†Francisco DLG. Tudela

Brother-In-Law:

†Jose Terlaje

Sister's-In-Law:

†Regina C. Terlaje

†Carmen C. Tudela

†Manuel Terlaje

†Jesus Manuel Castro

Natividad's love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:

Brother: Jesus DLG. Tudela

Children, Grand Children, & Great Grand Children:

Felix T./Ludevina Castro (Dexter & Yuka Castro [Miria & Destin], Jennifer & Antonio Agulto [Alton Diego], Felixberto Castro, Lude Lynn Castro, Queenielyn Castro)
Augustin T./Nathania Castro (†Jesus Manuel Castro [Vijae Scott], Augustine Jr. Castro, Elsa Castro & Paul C. Pangelinan, Jean Castro, Doreen Castro & Brian Camacho [Jesus Vinx], Brandkief Castro, Byron Castro)

Juan T. Cruz (John Trevor Cruz, Alison P. Cruz, Benny John P. Cruz, Jaydora P. Cruz, Julius P. Cruz)

Maria Elena C. "Helen" (Jesus H. Sablan [Joey C./Sarinee Sablan, Jay C. Sablan & Joselyn Cabrera [Jeslena Joemar], Christine C. Sablan & Roland Delos Reyes [Marlenie Mitsuko], Jesse C. Sablan)

On Monday, January 03, 2011 at 7:30 a.m., our beloved will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church in Chalan Kanoa.

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:30a.m. followed immediately by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, where we will bid her farewell and a peaceful rest.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You,

The Family

'Little Fockers' tops holiday weekend box office

NEW YORK (AP)—On a weekend when Hollywood competed with Christmas gatherings and fierce snow storms in the Northeast and Southeast, "Little Fockers" was no. 1 at the box office.

The third installment of the Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro series of in-law comedy was to earn \$34 million over the three-day weekend, and \$48.3 million since opening on Wednesday, according to studio estimates Sunday. That was less than the debut of the 2004 sequel, "Meet the Fockers," which opened to \$46.1 million, but more than the original, "Meet the Parents," which made \$28.6 million in its opening weekend.

It was an over-all down weekend for Hollywood, which saw the blockbuster "Gulliver's Travels" open Saturday to a weak two-day gross of \$7.2 million, and last week's top film, the 3-D sci-fi sequel "Tron: Legacy,"

million, and a five-day gross of \$36.8 million. The movie gave Joel and Ethan Coen their best opening weekend ever. The filmmakers' previous top debut was "Burn After Reading," which earned \$19 million in its first weekend in 2008.

"Little Fockers," which adds kids to the mix, received overwhelmingly bad reviews but still lured moviegoers.

"These characters are well-loved by audiences," said Eddie Egan, president of marketing at Universal. "It's a very positive result and hopefully a blueprint for success over the next few weeks when the larger movie-going pool is available."

It wasn't an ideal holiday

1. "Little Fockers," \$34 million.
2. "True Grit," \$25.6 million.
3. "Tron: Legacy," \$20.1 million.
4. "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," \$10.8 million.
5. "Yogi Bear," \$8.8 million.
6. "The Fighter," \$8.5 million.
7. "Gulliver's Travels," \$7.2 million.
8. "Black Swan," \$6.6 million.
9. "Tangled," \$6.5 million.
10. "The Tourist," \$5.7 million.

cy," fall more than 54 percent to \$20.1 million on the weekend, and a total of \$88.3 million.

The big success was the Coen Brothers' "True Grit," which was the No. 2 film of the weekend with a better-than-expected \$25.6

moviegoing weekend with Christmas Eve falling on a Friday (typically one of the biggest moviegoing nights of the week) and large snow storms hitting much of the East Coast.

But even those factors aside, the mishmash of critical failures and underperforming blockbusters made it a notably lackluster holiday for Hollywood. It was 45 percent lower than the same weekend last year, when "Avatar" was in its second week of release, along with the premiere of hits like "Sherlock Holmes" and "It's Complicated."

"What a difference a year makes," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "In terms of the big blockbusters, no way can we live up to last year."

Though Dergarabedian noted timing and weather were worse this year, he said: "Ultimately, it comes down to the product."

The most remarkable bright spot was the Coen brothers' authentic adaptation of Charles Portis' 1968 novel and remake of the 1969 film starring John Wayne.

"We've got an out-and-out success," said Don Harris, executive vice president of distribution for Paramount.

"People want to be in business with the Coens because of the quality of moviemaking," said Harris, granting that box-office isn't typically the Coens' big appeal. "From the beginning, the plan was to make a movie that could play in 3,000 theaters and play in Texas and play in Kansas City, and places the Coen Brothers don't normally open well or open at all."

The success of "True Grit" meant that at 61, Jeff Bridges was an unlikely box-office star, starring in the no. 2 and no. 3 ("Tron: Legacy") movies of the weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

'Octomom' faces eviction from Southern Calif. home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man who sold his Southern California home to "Octomom" Nadya Suleman said Sunday that he's going ahead with eviction proceedings because she hasn't made a long overdue \$450,000 payment.

Amer Haddadin said he'll evict Suleman if she and her lawyer Jeff Czech don't pay the balance on the house by Friday. A balloon payment was due Oct. 9.

"I think they have money, but they are hiding the money," Haddadin said.

Suleman and Czech were served notice on Dec. 2 by mail and by hand, Haddadin said. He expects the eviction to be speedy.

Suleman and her 14 children have lived in the 4-bedroom house for nearly two years, ever since she brought her octuplets home to the quiet cul-de-sac in La Habra, about 25 miles east of Los Angeles. Her father purchased the home for \$565,000, including

3 arrested in UK for stealing Stradivarius violin

LONDON (AP)—Three people were arrested for stealing a 1.2 million-pound (\$1.85 million) antique violin from an internationally acclaimed musician while she stopped for a snack at a London sandwich bar, British police said.

South Korean violinist Min-Jin Kym was eating inside the sandwich shop outside Euston station on Nov. 29 when she noticed that her black violin case—which contained the 300-year-old Stradivarius as well as two expensive bows—was missing, police said.

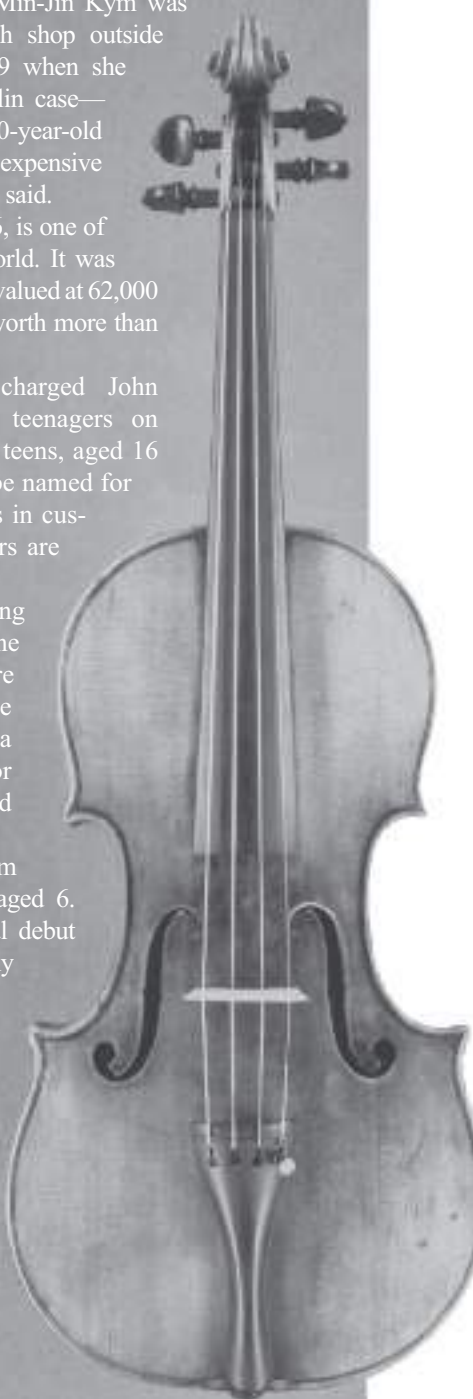
The violin, made in 1696, is one of only around 400 in the world. It was stolen with a Peccatte bow, valued at 62,000 pounds, and another bow worth more than 5,000 pounds.

Police arrested and charged John Maughan, 26, and two teenagers on Wednesday for theft. The teens, aged 16 and 14 years old, cannot be named for legal reasons. Maughan is in custody and the two teenagers are free on bail.

Police are appealing for information about the whereabouts of the rare instrument. An insurance company has offered a 15,000 pound reward for information that could lead to the violin's recovery.

South Korea-born Kym began playing the violin aged 6. She made her international debut with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra when she was 13. Since then, she has performed with some of the world's leading orchestras.

An undated image released by the British Transport Police on Thursday Dec. 23, 2010, of a 1697 Stradivarius violin.



This Wednesday, May 19, 2010 file photo shows octuplets mother Nadya Suleman wears a T-shirt promoting pet birth control outside her home in La Habra, Calif. on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

a \$130,000 down payment.

Suleman's father, Ed Doud, cut a deal with Haddadin for

the house because a traditional bank loan wasn't available to Suleman, who is unmarried and unemployed. She previously lived with her mother in a small Whittier home before that house was foreclosed on.

In April, Haddadin granted a 6-month extension on the remaining balance, and says that as a Jordanian, he took pity on a fellow Arab in a tough spot, and pledged to help Doud, who is Palestinian.

Haddadin said Czech and Suleman became joint owners of the house in August, after her father transferred the deed from his name.

Reached by phone Sunday, Czech said he had no immediate comment except that Suleman has been making \$4,000 payments every month.

Suleman already had six small children before giving birth to the octuplets. All 14 children were conceived through in vitro fertilization.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$5.75 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$5.75 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$5.75 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.75 Military with Valid I.D.

T TIMEWARP TUESDAY \$5.75 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



For Friday, December 24th through Thursday, December 30th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ ★ ★ **NOW SHOWING** ★ ★ ★



Little Fockers
 Fri & Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Sun through Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeem himself after he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comedy series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ten years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.



True Grit
 Fri & Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Sun through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
 Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and another lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territory in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young girl's perspective, and re-teams the celebrated filmmaking duo with their No Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin, Josh Brolin co-stars.



Yogi Bear
 Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sun through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Hanna-Barbera's beloved picnic basket-stealing bear makes his big-screen debut in this live-action/animated mix children's pic from Ash Brannon, co-director of Surf's Up. The Tooth Fairy writing team of Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia provide the screenplay, which will center around CG Yogi and Boo Boo as they interact with live actors in Jellystone Park.



Tron: Legacy
 Fri & Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sun through Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges
 Science, Fiction • Rated PG

Synopsis

Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale



How Do You Know?
 Fri & Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader
 Fri & Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sun through Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Teena Marie, known as 'Ivory Queen of Soul,' dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Teena Marie, the "Ivory Queen of Soul" who developed a lasting legacy with her silky soul pipes and with hits like "Lovergirl," "Square Biz," and "Fire and Desire" with mentor Rick James, has died. She was 54.

The confirmation came from a publicist, Jasmine Vega, who worked with Teena Marie on her last album, 2009's "Congo Square." Her manager, Mike Gardner, also confirmed her death to CNN.

The singer continued performing in recent years after overcoming an addiction to prescription drugs. It was unclear late Sunday where and how she died.

Marie certainly wasn't the first white act to sing soul music, but she was arguably among the most gifted and respected, and was thoroughly embraced by the black audience.

Even before she started her musical career, she had a strong bond with the black community,



In this July 5, 2009 file photo, Teena Marie performs during the Essence Music Festival at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

which she credited to her godmother. She gravitated to soul music and in her youth decided to make it her career.

Marie made her debut on the legendary Motown label back in 1979, becoming one of the very few white acts to break the

race barrier of the groundbreaking black-owned record label that had been a haven for black artists like Stevie Wonder, the Jackson Five, the Supremes and Marvin Gaye.

Marie was the protege of the masterful funk wizard James, with whom she would have long, turbulent but musically magical relationship.

The cover of her debut album, "Wild and Peaceful," did not feature her image, with Motown apparently fearing black audiences might not buy it if they found out the songstress with the dynamic, gospel-inflected voice was white.

But Marie notched her first hit, "I'm A Sucker for Your Love," and was on her way to becoming one of R&B's most revered queens. During her tenure with Motown, the singer-songwriter and musician produced passionate love songs and funk jam songs like "Need Your Lovin'," "Behind the Groove" and "Ooh La La La."

Hilson duets with Chris Brown on new CD

SANTA MONICA, California (AP)—Keri Hilson called her new album "No Boys Allowed," but a collaboration with one young man has been drawing attention.

The pop-R&B singer has become the most prominent female artist to collaborate with Chris Brown since his arrest last year for attacking his then-girlfriend Rihanna. The album cut "One Night Stand" is her second duet with Brown, following "Superhuman," recorded in 2008.

"I didn't want to be one of those women who is so unforgiving and be yet another person who is slapping him on his hand and crucifying him," Hilson said

in an interview. "You have to be allowed back into good graces, meaning, 'Let me earn my trust back to you, let me earn my respect back.' And Chris has done that. He's crawled back into the public eye. ... Women were so unforgiving. And I understand why. I don't condone what he did. But I also believe in second chances."

Hilson, 28, calls the 21-year-old Brown a friend and said she wants the public to separate his mistakes from his music. Despite repeated apologies and atonement-focused songs, Brown struggled to connect with pop audiences in 2010, releasing a series of mixtapes online in hopes of gaining trac-



In this Jan. 30, 2010 photo, Keri Hilson arrives at the annual Pre-GRAMMY Gala presented by The Recording Academy and Clive Davis at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

tion, finally finding success with the No. 1 R&B hit "Deuces." Although Brown was recently nominated for three Grammys, Hilson blames unfair news coverage for his struggles.

"When you're an entertainer, I don't believe that anything you do in your personal life should undermine your creative efforts in any way," she said. "And I learned that from Kanye (West). I learned that from watching what happened to R. Kelly. I learned that from Michael Jackson, even. I think it's sad that the media does that, makes an artist feel worthless—like they have nothing to give because they made a mistake."

Soccer star Landon Donovan divorcing actress wife

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show soccer star Landon Donovan has filed for divorce from his actress wife Bianca Kajlich in Los Angeles.

Donovan, who plays for the Los Angeles Galaxy, cited irreconcilable differences for the split with Kajlich after nearly three years of marriage.

Kajlich currently stars in the CBS comedy "Rules of Engagement."

They were married on New

Year's Eve 2006 and have no children together. He states the couple separated in October 2009.

In a statement, the former couple says, "We remain the closest of friends and will always be important parts of each others lives."

Donovan was a key member of the United States' 2010 World Cup team, scoring a goal against Algeria that advanced the team to the second round of play.



In this Nov. 11, 2008 photo, actress Bianca Kajlich, wife of US soccer player Landon Donovan the 2008 Honda Player of the Year, accepts the soccer award on his behalf, in downtown Los Angeles.

It's never too late in life to find your true love

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am responding to "Single Still in Little Rock" (Nov. 6), the 34-year-old woman who is anxious about whether she'll ever marry. I married for the first time at 67. After retiring from a 45-year career in nursing, I met a wonderful, caring and interesting man who had lost his first wife years earlier. Neither "Sam" nor I was looking for a spouse at the time. (Truthfully, I had given up.) We were introduced by a mutual friend at church and soon knew we were meant to be together.



Dear Abby

My advice to "Single" is to continue living a full and productive life, remain open to making new friends, look for a man who had a happy first marriage and don't give in to your anxieties. My husband and I know our time together is limited. We strive to make the most of every day, overlooking small and unimportant differences, and focusing on making each other happy. I am an integral part of Sam's family, including his sons and their offspring. It's a wonderful life, and I'm grateful I was able to endure some loneliness when I was younger for all that I have now.

ROSE IN TUCSON

DEAR ROSE: Your letter is inspiring. "Single Still" requested that I ask readers for their success stories in finding love "later in life," and true to form you responded in huge numbers. Bless you all! Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: For many years I desperately wanted to be married. Therefore, I measured everyone who asked me out as a possible husband and either scared them away or allowed myself to be used. Finally, after living in a number of large cities, my career moved me to a tiny rural town. By then I had lost hope of finding Mr. Right, so I quit looking.

Best thing I ever did! I learned to enjoy life for what it offered each day, not pine for a mate. I found myself enjoying friendships with men because I saw them as friends, not potential husbands. Out of the blue, some pals arranged a blind date with "the only eligible bachelor" left in town. We were married less than six months later—at ages 34 and 38—and just celebrated our 21st anniversary.

LOVING MY LIFE IN MINNESOTA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I consider my "failed" relationships opportunities to learn something. The main lesson is I must love who I am first and be less concerned about where a relationship is going. When you're happy, pursuing your own interests and developing yourself as a person, someone with a similar perspective will come along. Instead of bemoaning my single status, I'm on Internet dating sites—a great platform for meeting people who share my interests.

SONDRA IN TENNESSEE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I held off on marrying until my career was stable. My wife and I married when we were 35. For years we have traveled without worrying about baby sitters or being home by a certain time. We have formed friendships with other childless couples and share "family" holidays. We dote on our nieces and nephews. If "Single" still wants children and is concerned about the health aspects of pregnancy at an older age, adoption is available.

MARRIED MAN IN TEXAS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: At age 30, with the help of a therapist, I realized I was approaching this thing all wrong. Instead of dating men who were looking at me, I was running after every gorgeous guy I saw. It didn't work, so I stopped chasing and let myself be chased. I was married in five years. Love isn't always "at first sight."

BEEN THERE IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I used my single status in service to others—volunteering on "date nights," involving myself in local politics, being active in church and having a stellar career. I have no regrets, and am sad for the women I know who are lonely in their marriages. "Single" should count her blessings that she hasn't said "I do" to "Mr. Wrong."

SINGLE AND NOT SORRY IN FLORIDA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Hugh Hefner, left, and Crystal Harris arrives at the premiere of "Iron Man 2" at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles in this April 26, 2010 file photo.

Hefner gets engaged to a Playmate again

CHICAGO (AP)—Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner says he's gotten engaged again.

Hefner said in a Twitter message early Sunday that he'd given a ring to girlfriend and Playmate Crystal Harris, saying she burst into tears.

"This is the happiest Christmas weekend in memory," he wrote.

To clear up confusion over whether the ring was simply a Christmas gift, Hefner later

tweeted: "Yes, the ring I gave Crystal is an engagement ring. I didn't mean to make a mystery out of it. A very merry Christmas to all."

This would be the third marriage for the 84-year-old, star of E! reality series "The Girls Next Door," which chronicles Hefner's life at the Playboy Mansion. He divorced Playmate Kimberly Conrad last year.

Harris is 23, according to her online biography by E!

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

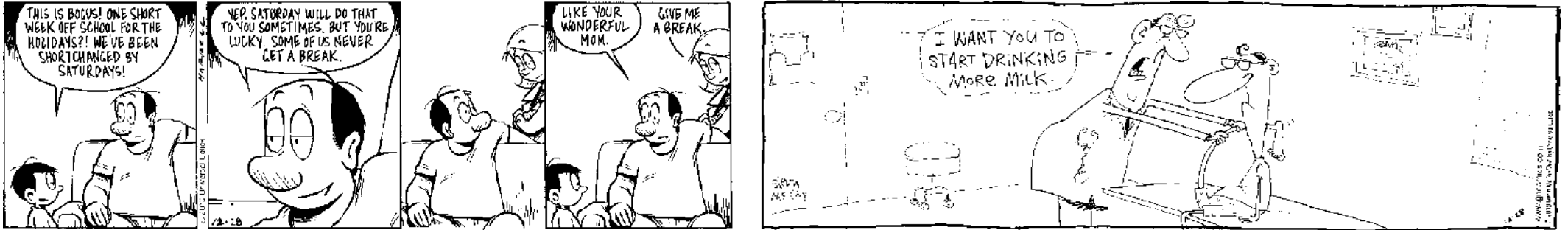


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mayberry moppet
5 Fond du Wis.
8 Sample of a movie
12 Protracted
13 Blunder
14 Stash
15 Shame
17 Portent
18 Massachusetts cape
19 Motorcycle noises
21 Permeate deeply
24 New Mexico art colony
25 Complain
26 Scatter
30 "I" strain
31 Thicket
32 Lubricant
33 Reveal
35 Ring up
36 Actress Schneider

DOWN

1 Anti-quated
2 Luau
3 — and outs
4 Breakfast
5 Start
6 Joan of —
7 Deep fissure
8 Pick
9 Long car
10 The same, in bibliographies
11 Nerd-pack contents
16 Fish eggs
20 Lasso
21 On the rocks
22 Creche trio
23 Family-biz abbr.
24 A bit inebriated
26 Armageddon time
27 Street
28 Lege
29 A Beverly Hillbilly
31 Coagulate
34 Lunar feature
35 Awning
37 "He pl!"
38 Impale
39 Texas city
40 Continental coin
41 Doctrines
44 Anger
45 Virgo's neighbor
46 — out (just relax)
47 Historic period

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-28

A	G	C	S	W	O	R	E	S	U	P	O
I	O	N	C	A	P	E	R	E	L	K	
L	I	F	I	L	A	S	S	I	E		
K	F	E	N	F	I	S	T	O	A		
O	S	J	D	E	B	A	F	F	I	X	
F	A	N	S	S	O	P	A	T	O	M	
S	U	S	A	N	A	U	K	E	T	A	
A	R	E	S	M	A	D	R	A	S		
O	F	F	I	S	H	P	R	E			
A	R	T	I	C	O	K	A	F	E	R	
T	F	E	O	R	B	I	T	O	N	E	
F	E	L	R	E	T	I	N	S	C	O	U

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sienna Miller, 29; Denzel Washington, 56; Edgar Winter, 64; Dame Maggie Smith, 76

Happy Birthday: It will be important to display your plans but not to reveal your secrets. You have a fine line to walk but, if you manage to keep your balance, you can make huge gains. The trick will be timing and intuition. Your prompt action, along with honesty and integrity, will be required. Your numbers are 6, 11, 19, 28, 30, 38, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Size up whatever situation you face and make your move without hesitation. Don't let emotions play a part in your decision-making. Someone will try to curtail your freedom or take something from you if you don't keep up your guard. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Communication will play a huge role today. Speak up; if you don't voice your opinion you will have no right to complain later on. Set aside time for your lover or attend social events. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Spending time with someone who can offer you good advice will help you realize what you should be doing or looking into in the new year. Volunteer work will introduce you to people you want to hang out with and get to know better. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Limit your plans, spending and your interaction with others. You need a little quiet time to rejuvenate. Don't get bogged down doing things for

others. You have enough responsibilities without taking on extra chores. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Address some of your relationships and decide if you are hanging out with people who contribute equally or if you are beginning to feel used. It is time to shake things up a bit if you want to start the new year off on the right foot. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let the past cloud your vision. Look at what you have accomplished and what's left to do. If you concentrate on who and what are important to you, it won't be difficult to begin next year with a positive start. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be emotional, sensitive and wondering what to do next. Disappointment may cloud your vision and uncertainty your ability to make an important decision. Nothing is as bad as it appears and, with the knowledge you gain, something good will unfold. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Doing for those less fortunate will enrich your life and make you realize how lucky you are. Your dedication and loyalty will invite giving, caring people into your life. Open your mind to new ideas. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A look at the past and the present regarding your personal and professional status will get you thinking about what you should and can do in the new year. Set up meetings in order to follow through with your plans. Change may be inevitable but it doesn't have to be bad. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Think before you take action. Anger will not fix whatever problem you face or person you must deal with. Love, understanding and compassion will lead to success. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take responsibility for your actions and you will be able to sort through a dilemma with far greater success. Don't let an old lover cause you to make the same mistake twice. Move forward, not backward. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Consider the feelings of others and you will bring joy to everyone with whom you deal today. There may be a need for change; be upfront and honest about what and why you must make such alterations in your life. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a scholar and a participant. You are a mediator, a philosopher and a peacekeeper. You are passionate and a Good Samaritan.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5					2	7				
				9	8		4			
				4			3	1	2	
	8	2			1					5
	7									
1				6			2	4		
6	1	9			5					
			7		6	9				
			5	1						3

Difficulty Level ★★

12/28

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	5	8	7	9	1	4	6
9	1	8	6	4	2	3	5	7
4	7	6	1	3	5	9	2	8
2	5	9	4	1	6	8	7	3
8	3	1	5	2	7	4	6	9
6	4	7	9	8	3	2	1	5
1	9	4	7	5	8	6	3	2
5	6	3	2	9	4	7	8	1
7	8	2	3	6	1	5	9	4

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHINTO

Solution: 8 letters

W	M	Y	I	L	A	U	I	R	I	P	S	D
O	A	Y	N	O	M	E	R	E	C	I	S	U
R	G	V	D	L	L	O	D	E	D	R	O	C
S	I	T	E	S	S	S	H	R	I	N	E	S
H	C	Y	I	S	R	L	A	E	T	R	K	G
I	A	G	F	E	A	E	A	G	M	R	E	C
P	L	O	I	E	W	A	I	I	E	R	O	L
I	F	I	D	F	C	D	J	A	R	F	I	R
R	S	O	O	V	N	N	N	A	E	O	P	T
A	S	E	C	I	T	C	A	R	P	S	M	N
S	E	H	L	F	I	O	U	M	E	A	E	E
I	N	T	T	F	M	T	I	C	O	G	N	S
N	C	A	N	U	A	I	N	W	O	R	G	E
G	E	T	S	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	R
S	S	M	U	R	D	N	P	R	E	C	E	P

© 2010 Universal Uclick. www.wonderword.com. John Deere is a trademark.

12/28

Ancient, Ceremony, Codified, Dances, Diligence, Doll, Drums, Empire, Esquimaux, Five, Grow, Home, Indigenous, Japanese, Lead, Magical, Memorials, Mountains, Music, Mythology, Nature, Phrasings, Precepts, Present, Recorded, Rocks, Romance, Sacred, Sage, Seal, Shrines, Sites, Spirituality, Sumo, Theology, Tree, Wars, Waves, Worship

Yesterday's Answer: Catapult

Today's Wonderword puzzle is for \$5.95 and plus \$3.95 shipping and handling each. \$9.90 for two puzzles. For details, visit www.wonderword.com. Also available on Amazon, iTunes, and Google Play. For a free trial, visit www.wonderword.com. For a free trial, visit www.wonderword.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$99 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ only). A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

2007 Toyota Corolla and Nissan Sentra. Excellent condition. Call 287-7676

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2010 (Amended)

Opening date: December 14, 2010 **Closing date:** December 28, 2010

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Position: (1) Operations Supervisor (Saipan)
(1) Custodial/ Maintenance-I (Rota)
(1) ARFF Training Coordinator (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 28, 2010.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON-GUERRERO**
Executive Director

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution:
A man of many parts

Looking for a FEMALE friend

Must be a healthy, honest, nice, educated, 25 to 35 years old, U.S. citizenship or Saipan female. Welcome to meet! I am a businessman, many years in Saipan, single, College graduate. Height 175cm, weight 80kg, and age 36. I love to travel and play sports, healthy, faithful, and friendly. I don't smoke and gamble.

Contact: 670-287-3568
Gmail: saipanbbc@gmail.com

Risa Namelo
P.O. Box 7068 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No: 288-0340

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of) FCD-AD
The Adoption Of:) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 10-0616

K.J.N.,)
Minor Child) NOTICE
) HEARING

By:)
RISA NAMELO)
Petitioner(s))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing January 13, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2010.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. YVONNE A. ATALIG and GODEL OMENGEBAR, Defendants	Civil Action No. 10-0254-CV AMENDED SUMMONS
---	--

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS YVONNE A. ATALIG and GODEL OMENGEBAR:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT for FORECLOSURE, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this ____ day of October, 2010.

Clerk of Court

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MAN Y

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Patriots top Bills, gain AFC top playoff seed



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady attempts a pass against the Buffalo Bills during the second half of an NFL football game in Orchard Park, N.Y., on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010.



ORCHARD PARK, New York (AP)—The New England Patriots clinched the top seed in the AFC playoffs Sunday thanks to Tom Brady's three touchdown passes in a 34-3 rout over a familiar pushover, the Buffalo Bills.

The Patriots (13-2) rolled to their seventh straight victory in winning the AFC East division and beating the Bills (4-11) for the 15th game in a row dating to 2003. New England is 20-1 in its past 21 meetings against Buffalo.

Two of Brady's TD passes went to rookie tight end Rob Gronkowski. Alge Crumpler and Danny Woodhead also scored for the Patriots, who forced seven turnovers.

Brady finished 15 of 27 for 140 yards and set the NFL record for most attempts (319) without an interception. He topped the mark set by Bernie Kosar in the 1990-91 seasons.

Rams 25, 49ers 17

At St. Louis, Sam Bradford set an NFL record for completions in a rookie season and his first touchdown pass in four games gave St. Louis breathing room in its playoff quest.

The Rams (7-8) need to win at Seattle next week to clinch their first playoff berth since 2004.

Troy Smith was benched in the fourth quarter of a loss that eliminated the 49ers (5-10) from playoff consideration in the weak NFC West.

Ted Ginn Jr. scored on a 78-yard punt return for San Francisco, his fourth career touchdown return.

Ravens 20, Browns 10

At Cleveland, Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes and the Ravens clinched their third straight playoff appearance.

Ed Reed intercepted rookie Colt McCoy twice as the Ravens (11-4) stayed in contention for the AFC North title. They remain tied with Pittsburgh for the division lead with one game left.

McCoy threw three interceptions and the Browns (5-10) did nothing to help embattled coach Eric Mangini, who fell to 10-21 in two seasons and will await a postseason review by president Mike Holmgren.

Chiefs 34, Titans 14

At Kansas City, Missouri, Matt Cassel threw three touchdown passes and Eric Berry returned an interception 54 yards for another score for Kansas City.

Cassel hit 12 of his first 13 passes for the Chiefs (10-5), including touchdown tosses to Jamaal Charles on their first two possessions.

The Titans (6-9) spent much of the game dropping passes, missing arm tackles and piling up penalties while losing for the seventh time in eight games.

Dwayne Bowe had six catches for 153 yards, including a career-best 75-yard touchdown as the Chiefs remained unbeaten in seven home games. If they win at home next week against Oakland, they'll clinch their first AFC West title since 2003.

Bears 38, Jets 34

At Chicago, Jay Cutler threw three touchdown passes and Chicago closed in on a first-round bye.

The Jets (10-5) lost for third time in four games, but clinched their second straight postseason trip under coach Rex Ryan when Jacksonville lost 20-17 in overtime to Washington.

The win was the seventh in eight games for the Bears (11-4), who blew an early 10-point lead and regrouped in the second half after being picked apart by Mark Sanchez early. Now, they're in good position to lock up that bye, a scenario that seemed unlikely at best when they stumbled into their bye-week break.

Sanchez was intercepted by Chris Harris with about a minute left, ending the Jets' comeback bid.

Redskins 20, Jaguars 17, OT

At Jacksonville, Florida, Kevin Barnes intercepted David Garrard's second pass in overtime, setting up Graham Gano's 31-yard field goal.

Rex Grossman had a TD pass early, and Ryan Torain added a 1-yard plunge on fourth down late as the Redskins (6-9) ended a four-game losing streak.

Washington played without several defensive starters, including linebacker Brian Orakpo and safeties Reed Doughty and Kareem Moore, and lost cornerback Carlos Rogers during the game. It didn't matter. The Redskins stuffed Jacksonville's running game, pressured Garrard and came up big when it mattered most.

The Jaguars (8-7) have lost two in a row and need help to make the playoffs. They need to win at Houston next week and have Tennessee upset Indianapolis to win the AFC South.

Lions 34, Dolphins 27

At Miami, Detroit took advantage of two interceptions to score 17 points in the final 4:37. With the comeback, the Lions (5-10) have won three consecutive games for the first time since 2007. The Dolphins (7-8) finished 1-7 at home to match

a franchise low.

Trailing 24-14 with five minutes to go, the Lions forced a punt, and on the first play Jahvid Best turned a short pass from Shaun Hill into a 53-yard touchdown.

Nathan Vasher's interception set up a 47-yard field goal by Dave Rayner to tie the game with 2:44 remaining. Then came an interception by DeAndre Levy, who zigzagged 30 yards for Detroit's third score in less than 20 minutes.

Buccaneers 38, Seahawks 15

At Tampa, Florida, Josh Freeman threw for 237 yards and a career-best five touchdowns to help Tampa Bay keep its playoff hopes alive.

Kellen Winslow and rookie Mike Williams each had a pair of TD receptions for the Bucs (9-6), who guaranteed themselves a winning record after going 3-13 a year ago in their first season under coach Raheem Morris.

Seattle (6-9) played most of the game without injured quarterback Matt Hasselbeck and lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Amazingly, the Seahawks can still win the NFC West by beating the first-place Rams (7-8) at home next Sunday.

Bengals 34, Chargers 20

At Cincinnati, Carson Palmer threw four touchdown passes during a near-perfect performance to end the Chargers' run of four straight AFC West titles.

The Chargers (8-7) froze up in their coldest game in nearly three years, repeatedly self-destructing on a raw, windy evening. The loss gave the division title to Kansas City, which beat Tennessee 34-14 earlier in the day.

Palmer, a Southern California kid, led the Bengals (4-11) to their second straight win with two of his touchdown passes going to Jerome Simpson, including a 59-yarder in the fourth quarter.

Packers 45, Giants 17

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, Aaron Rodgers threw for 404 yards and four touchdowns in his return from a concussion to lead Green Bay to an easy victory over New York.

The loss leaves the Giants (9-6) clinging to fading playoff hopes and wondering if there was a hangover effect from the previous week's collapse against Philadelphia.

John Kuhn ran for two TDs and caught a pass for a score for the Packers (9-6), who need to beat the Bears in the next weekend to make the playoffs.

Colts 31, Raiders 26

At Oakland, California, Peyton Manning threw three touchdown passes in a game that turned out to have little playoff meaning.

The Colts (9-6) allowed Jacoby Ford to return the opening kick for a TD and overcame a pair of interceptions by Manning in the second half to move within a win of clinching the AFC South title for their ninth straight playoff berth.

But when Jacksonville lost earlier, the Colts knew that no matter what happened in this game they could clinch the division with a win at home next week against the Titans or a Jaguars loss at Houston. The Raiders (7-8) were eliminated earlier when the Chiefs beat the Titans.

Broncos 24, Texans 23

At Denver, Tim Tebow scored with three minutes left in his first home start to cap Denver's comeback from a 17-0 halftime deficit.

The Broncos (4-11) won for the first time since Nov. 14 and avoided a franchise record 12th loss in handing the Texans (5-10) their eighth loss in nine games.

Tebow threw for 308 yards but when it mattered most, he used his legs to give the Broncos their first win since Nov.

Vikings-Eagles snowed out; moved to Tuesday night

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—On a bizarre day when the Philadelphia Eagles were snowed out, they celebrated an NFC East championship.

The NFL moved the Vikings at Eagles game from Sunday night to Tuesday because of a blizzard that could dump more than a foot of snow on Philadelphia.

The game—the first on a Tuesday since 1946—will be played at 8 p.m. EST., and televised nationally by NBC.

Sideline by the storm, the Eagles went home and watched the Green Bay Packers beat the New York Giants 45-17. That gave Philadelphia its first division title since 2006 and sixth in 12 seasons under coach Andy Reid.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter declared a snow emergency as of 2 p.m. EST Sunday.

"We are urging all Philadelphians, please be careful, please be safe," the mayor told reporters in a news conference at City Hall on Sunday morning.

The decision to postpone the game came shortly after noon—before there was any snow accumulation in Philadelphia.

In announcing the postponement, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said:

"Due to public safety concerns in light of today's snow emergency in Philadelphia, tonight's Vikings-Eagles game has been postponed. Because of the uncertainty of the extent of tonight's storm and its aftermath, the game will be played on Tuesday night at 8 p.m. This will allow sufficient time to ensure that roads, parking lots and the stadium are fully cleared."

The postponement did not sit well with Gov. Ed Rendell, who told KYW-TV he did "not at all" agree with the decision.

"This is football; football's played in bad weather," Rendell said. "I think the fans would have gotten there, the subways work and the major arteries are still open, and other fans would have stayed home—but you play football regardless of the weather."

The governor, who does football commentaries after Eagles games, also said the decision would be a "serious handicap" for the Eagles and was unfair to the team.

"I, for one, was looking forward to sitting in the stands throughout the snow and seeing an old-time football game," Rendell said.

Asked what Vince Lombardi would say about the decision, Rendell said "he'd be mocking us."

Reid agreed with the league's decision.

"We're OK with it," he said. "We're organized and prepared for this, and we completely support what the league did from a safety standpoint for everybody. We got the guys out of the hotel and home, and they'll come back for a walkthrough tomorrow and then to the hotel, and it will be just like a Saturday night before a Sunday game, just a normal Saturday night-Sunday schedule."

The Vikings already have had two home games affected by the weather this season. Their game against the Giants on Dec. 12 was postponed a day after Minneapolis got 15 inches of snow. It was then moved to Detroit when the Metrodome roof collapsed.

Their game against Chicago the following week was played at the University of Minnesota's outdoor stadium because of the damaged roof.

"What else can you say? Just add this to the list for the 2010 season," Vikings defensive end Jared Allen said. "But you know what, we have to remain together as a team and keep a positive mind frame. It's important to be a professional and be ready to play on Tuesday night."

Parker, Spurs beat short-handed Wizards



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tony Parker had 20 points, 14 assists and six assists and the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs beat the short-handed Washington Wizards 94-80 on Sunday night.

The Spurs improved to 24-6, rebounding from a 123-101 loss to Orlando on Thursday night that snapped their winning streak at 11. The league leaders in 3-point percentage, San Antonio shot 10 of 24 from long range.

Manu Ginobili had 21 points and George Hill added 11. Hill returned to the lineup after missing four games because of a sprained right toe.

Rashard Lewis, acquired last week from Orlando, had 21 points for Washington, playing without suspended forwards Andray Blatche and JaVale McGee. They were suspended for one game for conduct detrimen-

tal to the team.

The Washington Post said Blatche and McGee were involved in an altercation outside an area club early Friday. The newspaper reported that two league sources said the players cursed at each other and exchanged punches. *The Post* said another source said police were called to break up the fight.

"All of the players knew, when we started the season, we had a zero tolerance for off-the-court incidents," Wizards coach Flip Saunders said. "Unfortunately, those two got in a situation. That's why they're suspended."

The Wizards cut it to 60-56 on Kurt Hinrich's running layup midway through the third quarter.

But San Antonio pulled ahead with a 21-9 run that ended when Hill hit two free throws with 4.1 seconds left in the quarter to make it 81-65.

The Wizards dropped to 0-14

on the road and are last in the Eastern Conference at 7-21. They are 1-9 in their last 10.

Without their leading scorer in Blatche, Washington welcomed the return of rookie point guard John Wall, who sat out five games because of a bruised right knee. He had four points in 19 minutes.

Hinrich added 15 points.

The Spurs will face the defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night, and the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday night.

Clippers 108, Suns 103

In Los Angeles, rookie Blake Griffin scored 28 points and 12 rebounds for his 18th straight double-double to help the Los Angeles Clippers beat Phoenix for the first time in 10 games.

Eric Gordon scored 24 points, and Baron Davis had 15 points and nine assists. Newly acquired Mickael Pietrus had a season-high 25 points for Phoenix, and Steve Nash finished with 21 points and 15 assists.

Bulls 95, Pistons 92, OT

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Carlos Boozer had 31 points and 11 rebounds, and Derrick Rose added 23 points and a career-high 12 rebounds in Chicago's overtime victory.

Detroit sent the game to overtime when Charlie Villanueva tipped home a missed shot with 0.6 seconds left. The Pistons missed three shots on the possession, but grabbed all three offensive rebounds.

Tayshaun Prince led Detroit with 17 points.

Timberwolves 98, Cavaliers 97

In Cleveland, Michael Beasley scored on a driving layup with 5.9 seconds left and finished with 28 points to help Minnesota end its seven game losing streak.

Beasley scored after Antawn Jamison's basket with 10.6 seconds left gave Cleveland the lead.

Luke Ridnour scored 23 points to help Minnesota improve to 7-24. Love added 16, including 14 in the fourth quarter, and had 18 rebounds for his NBA-leading 26th double-double. Jamison led Cleveland with 24 points. The Cavaliers are 1-13 in their last 14 and 8-22 overall.

Hornets 93, Hawks 86

In New Orleans, Chris Paul scored 22 points, 13 in the pivotal third quarter, to lead New Orleans to victory over Atlanta.

Paul was 10 of 17 from the field and had eight assists. David West scored 18 points and Emeka Okafor had 14 points and 15 rebounds.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 23 points and Marvin Williams had 18.

Grizzlies 104, Pacers 90

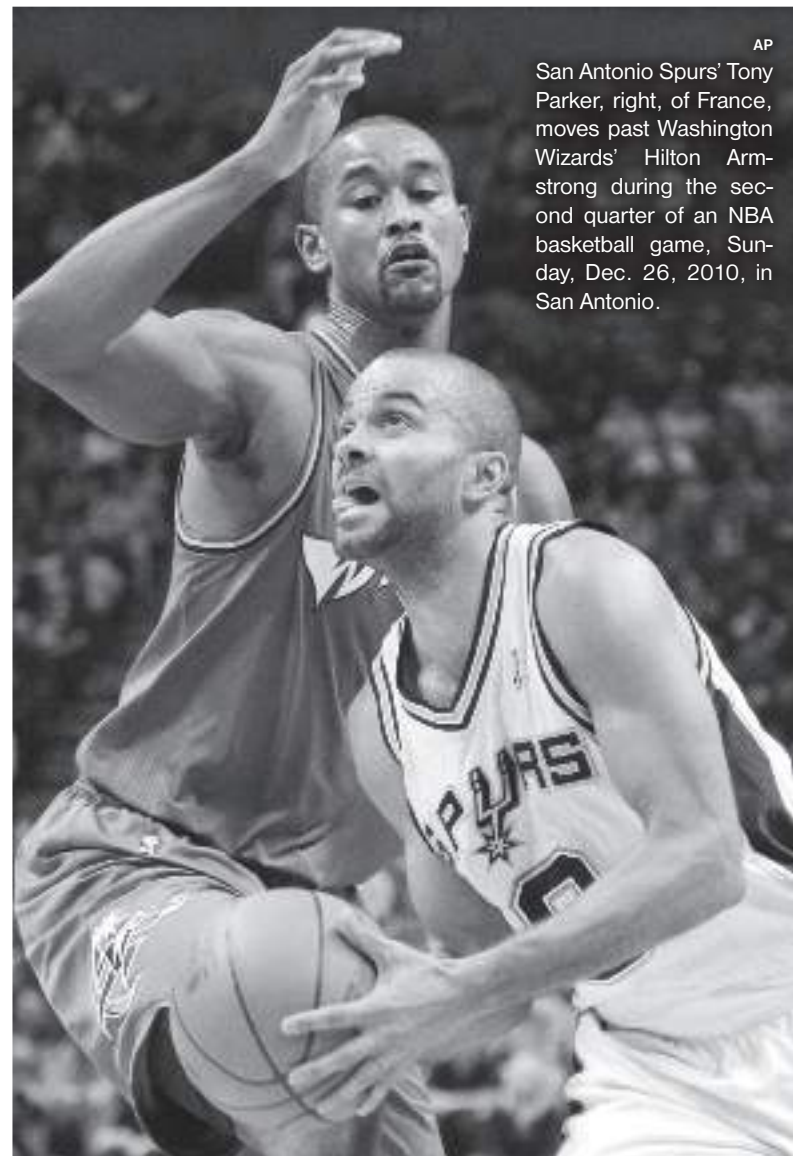
In Indianapolis, Rudy Gay scored 30 points, Zach Randolph had 18 points and 16 rebounds and Memphis beat Indiana to end a three-game losing streak.

O.J. Mayo and Marc Gasol added 17 points each for Memphis. The Grizzlies improved to 5-11 on the road and 13-17 overall. Danny Granger led the Pacers with 29 points and five rebounds.

76ers 95, Nuggets 89

In Denver, Jrue Holiday scored 22 points, Thaddeus Young added 20 and Philadelphia rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Denver.

Chauncey Billups had 24 points and Arron Afflalo and Ty Lawson added 14 each for the Nuggets, who lost their third straight since Carmelo Anthony left the team Wednesday following the death of his sister.



AP
San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker, right, of France, moves past Washington Wizards' Hilton Armstrong during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, in San Antonio.

MLB Briefs

Marlins sign Ricky Nolasco to 3-year deal

MIAMI (AP)—Right-handed pitcher Ricky Nolasco has signed a three-year, \$26.5 million contract with the Florida Marlins. The team announced the signing Friday. In a statement from the team, Marlins owner and CEO Jeffrey Loria called Nolasco "an outstanding competitor." Nolasco is expected to earn \$6 million in 2011, \$9 million in 2012 and \$11.5 in 2013. He made \$3.8 million last season, when he went 14-9 with a 4.51 ERA. The 28-year-old missed the final month after undergoing arthroscopic right knee surgery. In a conference call with reporters, Nolasco said he has been running and exercising without any setbacks. "I should be 100 percent by spring training," he said. He said he was grateful for the job security the deal give him and his family.

Rockies acquire Matt Lindstrom from Astros

DENVER (AP)—The Colorado Rockies bolstered their bullpen by acquiring right-handed reliever Matt Lindstrom from the Houston Astros on Thursday. In exchange, the Rockies sent minor league pitchers Wes Musick and Jonathon Aristil to Houston. Lindstrom, eligible for salary arbitration, has made at least 50 appearances in all four of his seasons in the majors. He had a team-high 23 saves for the Astros in 2010, finishing 2-5 with a 4.39 ERA. "We were very reluctant to trade Matt," Astros general manager Ed Wade said. "But with Brandon Lyon, Wilton Lopez and some of our younger arms, we think we have good coverage at the back of the bullpen." Given his experience as a closer, Lindstrom could be insurance for the Rockies in case anything happens to Huston Street, who missed the first 69 games in 2010 as he recovered from inflammation in his right shoulder.

Sources: Padres agree to 1-year deal with Hawpe

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Padres have agreed to terms of a one-year contract with Brad Hawpe to play first base, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Friday. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal is pending Hawpe passing a physical exam. Hawpe will replace three-time All-Star Adrian Gonzalez, who was traded to the Boston Red Sox earlier this month. Hawpe has mostly been an outfielder in seven big league seasons, with a handful of starts at first base. He was released by Colorado in August and signed by Tampa Bay. The Padres had to go outside the organization to replace Gonzalez because Anthony Rizzo, one of the prospects obtained from Boston, isn't expected to be ready for perhaps a season.

Arthur Rhodes agrees to contract with Rangers

A person familiar with the negotiations says left-handed reliever Arthur Rhodes has agreed to a contract with the AL champion Texas Rangers. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because the agreement had not yet been announced. The 41-year-old Rhodes was 4-4 with a 2.29 ERA in 69 relief appearances for the Cincinnati Reds last season, when he became a first-time All-Star. Entering his 20th major league season, Rhodes also has played for Baltimore, Seattle, Oakland, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Florida. (AP)

Love brushes off contraction talk

CLEVELAND (AP)—Minnesota forward Kevin Love brushed off LeBron James' recent comments that the NBA would be better off if it eliminated teams so more stars could play together.

James mentioned Love as an example of one player he wanted to see playing on a team other than the Timberwolves, who went into their game Sunday night against Cleveland with a 6-24 record.

"Those are interesting comments," Love said. "I saw what he said and it is not like that he is the only one that thought of that before or thought of that lately. You hear rumblings of contraction."

Love leads the league in rebounding with a 15.6 average and is averaging 20.9 points. The third-year player also leads the NBA with 25 double-doubles.

"That was just something he said," Love said. "I didn't really pay too much attention to it. I just figure that when the time comes with the CBA (collective bargaining agreement), the owners and players and everybody involved will make their decision. I didn't really think much of it."

Love admitted it's exciting to watch teams that have more than one star player.

"I don't see it happening, but it was fun when you used to watch certain teams that had certain guys, three or four superstar guys on a team," he said "That kind of stuff was cool. I understand what he is saying, but you never know until all the negotiations."

James, who left Cleveland to join Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami, said last week that the league is watered down and would be more popular if there were more teams with multiple All-Stars.



AP
Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Love (42) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' Antawn Jamison (4) in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, in Cleveland.

Hustlers, Fotten Palau still atop 8-ball standings

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Docomo Hustlers of Utopia Bar now boasts an eight-game lead in the Agingan Division of the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after easily dispatching the Pirates on the road last week at the D’Pirates Bar and Grill.

Hustlers (85-34) dominated the Pirates (38-81), 6-1, after sweeping the first three singles games. It lost the fourth match by tiebreaker, but recovered to sweep the final singles contest for the team victory. The Hustlers then went on to take both doubles matches by tiebreaker.

Buddies’ Bar & Grill’s IT&E Incredibles (77-42), Jonny’s Bar’s IT&E Voyagers (76-43), and Jonny’s Home Boyz (75-44) make up the rest of the teams in the four-team Agingan Division.

All three teams have been battling

back and forth for second place every week. Notables last week include an 8-ball sunk off the break by the Home Boyz’s Juancho Mendoza, while the Hustlers’ Jerry Soriano ran the table for the ninth time this season.

Over in the Obyan Division, USS Peleliu Club’s Fotten Palau is at the helm with a 59-60 win-loss slate.

Fotten Palau remained strong at home to top Toro-Key-Ree, 5-2. They won three of the five singles matches, two via tiebreaker, and swept both doubles matches to slam the door on their opponents.

D-Pirates Bar & Grill’s Team Who Oah! (54-65) trails Fotten Palau but holds a firm grip on second place. Wild Bill’s Bar & Grill’s Shark Attack and VFW’s Toro-Key-Ree are duking it out for the third spot with identical win-loss records of 48-71.

In other matches last week, the visiting Voyagers put away the Home Boyz on the road, 4-3. They won three of the five singles matches and held on to take the final doubles con-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fotten Palau scored a 5-2 victory over VFW’s Toro-Key-Ree at home at USS Peleliu Club last Tuesday to open a five-game lead in the Obyan Division of the Saipan Billiards Association standings.

SCHEDULE

From Page 28

from Aug. 29 to Sept. 8 and Centre Provincial de Tennis in Kone (Aug. 29 to Aug. 31).

Basketball, which will run from Aug. 29 to Sept. 9 is spread in four venues, Salle Omnisports Vallee-du-Tir in Noumea, Salle Omnisports Boewa in Mont-Dore, Salle des sports Paita in Paite, and Salle Omnisports Poindimie in Poindimie. Badminton will also be played in Salle Omnisports Vallee-du-Tir fro Sept. 5 to Sept. 9.

Boxing and judo will be held in the same venue—the Salle Omnisports Anse-Vata. Boxing competition will run from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 and Sept. 5 to 6, while judo will take place from Aug. 29 to Sept. 3.

The medal-rich sport of athletics, which will run for seven days (Sept. 3 to 9), will be held at the Stade Numa Daly, along with football. Football will have two three venues—Terrain Football PLGC, and Terrain Football Riviere-Salee, which are both in Noumea, and Terrain Football Hnassee in Lifou. Rugby 7 games will also be played in

test for the victory.

Visiting team Who-Oah! defeated Shark Attack, 5-2. They won three of the five singles matches, two via tiebreaker, and went on to take both doubles matches, by tiebreaker.

The Incredibles coordinated a dominating 7-0 performance at home over the Turtles (35-84). They won the first two singles matches by tiebreaker and stepped up their game by sweeping the last three singles matches and both doubles pairings.

The 2010 regular season concludes tonight when the Turtles host the Pirates at USSP; the Voyagers take on Shark Attack at Jonny’s, Who-Oah! faces the Incredibles at D’Pirates Bar and Grill; Toro-Key-Ree takes on the Home Boyz at VFW; and the Hustlers host Fotten Palau at Utopia Bar.

DOCOMO

From Page 28

Squads vying for the championship in next year’s UBA caging are defending champion Prospects, IP&E Konflikt, Mobil, Hoopaholics, Cultura Athletics Ol’Aces, Satbahi, NMC Proa, Rollers, and the Fundamentalists.

Participating teams will play in a round-robin regular season and only the Top 6 teams will advance to the playoffs. The Top 2 teams then will get byes in the playoffs, which will implement a single-elimination format. The championship phase will be a best-of-three affair.

“You lose, you’re out. This league is formatted in such a way that that it becomes very competitive. Every game is important as well as every point because it could come down to point spread if there is a tie. This is going to be a great test to see how strong each team is, not only based on how much great players each

team may have on their rosters, but also on their chemistry and physical and mental strengths,” Lee said.

Games in the UBA caging will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and there will be 36 matches in the regular season. The first match starts at 6:30pm, while the second begins at 8pm.

Mandatory technical meeting Jan. 3

Lee is calling all coaches/representatives of participating teams to attend a mandatory technical meeting on Jan.3 at 6pm at the conference room of the Ada gym.

“The technical meeting will be conducted by Gabriel White. He will go over the FIBA rules and regulations and most importantly, the new rules and the correct definition. We will also have Q&A’s during the meeting and we will try to answer anything pertaining to the league. Players are more than welcome to come,” Lee said.

THEA

From Page 28

lost to Australia’s Laura Kelley.

Minor’s next tournament will be the 2011 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup at the Albury Tennis Association in Albury, New South Wales, from Jan. 8 to 11. Last year, she won her first

game in Albury, but bowed to Kelley anew in the second round.

The CNMI netter’s third and last event will be the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Victoria, where she played her best game during her Land Down Under trip last year.

Minor won three matches in Wodon-

Terrain Football Riviere-Salee.

Swimming, another event with a slot of medals at stake, will be held at the Centre Aquatique Regional in Dumbea from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5. Dumbea will also host competitions in karate, taekwondo, and beach volleyball. The open water swim on Sept. 5 will take place at the Base Nautique Ouvea in Ouvea.

Baseball will be held from Aug. 29 to Sept. 3 and Sept. 5 to 8 in Mont-Dore, which will also host powerlifting, weightlifting, hammer throw, and shooting competitions.

ga, two against seeded foes, before losing to teammate Annie Shannon of Fiji in the semifinals, 5-7, 7-6, 3-6. The Wodonga tournament will run from Jan. 13 to 16.

While in Australia, Minor and company will get a chance to watch preliminary games in the 2010 Australian Open at the Rod Laver Arena.

CHAMOLINIAN

From Page 28

6:30pm to 8:30pm. All games will be played at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Moreover, this year both divisions will exhibit a round-robin format.

The entrance fee is \$400 per team, where the first 15 men’s teams and first five women’s groups to pay will be awarded slots.

Last year, 21 men’s teams competed in a double-elimination format. In the 2010 finals, top seed Natibu defeated

Man Amigos, 20-18, to take home the Chamolinian Softball Association’s perpetual trophy.

For more information, contact Mark Palacios at 322-7444, Liz Palacios at 287-8869, or email Joey Dela Cruz at budskingbaseball@yahoo.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	5	.821	—
New York	18	12	.600	6
Philadelphia	12	18	.400	12
Toronto	10	19	.345	13 1/2
New Jersey	9	21	.300	15

Southeast Division

Miami	23	9	.719	—
Orlando	18	12	.600	4
Atlanta	19	13	.594	4
Charlotte	9	19	.321	12
Washington	7	21	.250	14

Central Division

Chicago	19	10	.655	—
Indiana	13	15	.464	5 1/2
Milwaukee	12	16	.429	6 1/2
Detroit	10	20	.333	9 1/2
Cleveland	8	22	.267	11 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	26	4	.867	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	2
New Orleans	18	12	.600	8
Houston	14	15	.483	11 1/2
Memphis	13	17	.433	13

Northwest Division

Utah	21	9	.700	—
Oklahoma City	21	10	.677	1/2
Denver	16	13	.552	4 1/2
Portland	15	15	.500	6

Minnesota	7	24	.226	14 1/2
-----------	---	----	------	--------

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	21	9	.700	—
Phoenix	13	16	.448	7 1/2
Golden State	11	18	.379	9 1/2
L.A. Clippers	9	22	.290	12 1/2
Sacramento	5	22	.185	14 1/2

Yesterday’s Games

L.A. Clippers 108, Phoenix 103
Minnesota 98, Cleveland 97
Chicago 95, Detroit 92, OT
New Orleans 93, Atlanta 86
San Antonio 94, Washington 80
Memphis 104, Indiana 90
Philadelphia 95, Denver 89

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	27	244	229	760	28.1
Stoudemire, NYK	30	298	183	785	26.2
Ellis, GOL	29	285	139	755	26.0
Bryant, LAL	30	261	198	762	25.4
James, MIA	32	265	217	792	24.8
Nowitzki, DAL	28	256	149	687	24.5
Rose, CHI	27	252	107	656	24.3
Anthony, DEN	24	200	161	576	24.0
Gordon, LAC	28	217	188	663	23.7
Martin, HOU	29	193	229	683	23.6
Wade, MIA	30	242	189	700	23.3
Westbrook, OKC	31	239	215	703	22.7
Williams, UTA	30	220	184	671	22.4
Howard, ORL	28	211	178	600	21.4
Beasley, MIN	28	240	96	598	21.4
Granger, IND	26	191	111	553	21.3

Bargnani, TOR	27	217	106	572	2 1/2
Love, MIN	30	211	166	628	20.9
Griffin, LAC	30	243	138	626	20.9
Gay, MEM	28	223	94	577	20.6

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hillario, DEN	133	215	.619
Odom, LAL	191	329	.581
Horford, ATL	222	385	.577
Howard, ORL	211	369	.572
Okafor, NOR	115	204	.564
Young, PHL	138	245	.563
Ibaka, OKC	120	214	.561
Millsap, UTA	217	388	.559
McGee, WAS	101	184	.549
Garnett, BOS	182	334	.545

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	30	148	320	468	15.6
Howard, ORL	28	94	273	367	13.1
Randolph, MEM	25	111	200	311	12.4
Griffin, LAC	30	114	258	372	12.4
Noah, CHI	24	96	185	281	11.7
Gasol, LAL	30	109	222	331	11.0
Camby, POR	28	93	212	305	10.9
Odom, LAL	30	65	230	295	9.8
Biedrins, GOL	25	82	163	245	9.8
Varejao, CLE	27	87	175	262	9.7

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	20	275	13.8
Nash, PHX	26	273	10.5
Paul, NOR	29	285	9.8
Williams, UTA	30	289	9.6
Felton, NYK	30	275	9.2
Wall, WAS	15	133	8.9

Kidd, DAL	28	246	8.8
Rose, CHI	27	227	8.4
Westbrook, OKC	31	252	8.1
Miller, POR	29	219	7.6

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	13	2	0	.867	480	306
x-N.Y. Jets	10	5	0	.667	329	297
Miami	7	8	0	.467	266	295
Buffalo	4	11	0	.267	276	387

South

Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	412	368
Jacksonville	8	7	0	.533	336	385
Tennessee	6	9	0	.400	336	316
Houston	5	10	0	.333	356	410

North

x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	334	223
x-Baltimore	11	4	0	.733	344	263
Cleveland	5	10	0	.333	262	291
Cincinnati	4	11	0	.267	315	382

West

Kansas City	10	5	0	.667	356	295
San Diego	8	7	0	.533	408	294
Oakland	7	8	0	.467	379	361
Denver	4	11	0	.267	316	438

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	412	339
N.Y. Giants	9	6	0	.600	377	333
Washington	6	9	0	.400	288	360

Dallas	5	10	0	.333	380	423
--------	---	----	---	------	-----	-----

South

x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	369	261
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	354	270
Tampa Bay	9	6	0	.600	318	305
Carolina	2	13	0	.133	186	377

North

y-Chicago	11	4	0	.733	331	276
Green Bay	9	6	0	.600	378	237
Minnesota	5	9	0	.357	244	314
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	342	356

West

St. Louis	7	8	0	.467	283	312
Seattle	6	9	0	.400	294	401
San Francisco	5	10	0	.333	267	339
Arizona	5	10	0	.333	282	396

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday’s Games

Kansas City 34, Tennessee 14
St. Louis 25, San Francisco 17
Chicago 38, N.Y. Jets 34
Baltimore 20, Cleveland 10
New England 34, Buffalo 3
Detroit 34, Miami 27
Washington 20, Jacksonville 17, OT
Indianapolis 31, Oakland 26
Denver 24, Houston 23
Cincinnati 34, San Diego 20
Green Bay 45, N.Y. Giants 17
Tampa Bay 38, Seattle 15
Minnesota at Philadelphia, ppd., snow

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2010 High School Rocball League

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Kingz player serves.



A Kingz player stretches for a return.



A Kingz player returns to Yo Face during the opening set of their championship game.



The Kingz's Jason Limes leaps for a powerful kee.



The Kingz's Damart Teregeyo goes for a kill while his teammate looks on.



A Yo Face player goes for a toss to set up a teammate for a kee.



A Yo Face player returns from the backcourt during their title game against Kingz in the 2010 High School Rocball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Kingz won, 3-0.



A Yo Face player steps in to prevent Kingz from making a goal.



A Yo Face player bends to return a low ball.



**Patriots top Bills,
gain AFC top
playoff seed**

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



**Parker, Spurs
beat short-handed
Wizards**

PAGE 25

28 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Schedule of events for Pacific Games released

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The organizing committee of the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia has released the schedule of events for the quadrennial meet that will take place

The Stade Numa Daly in Noumea will be the venue for the opening ceremony for the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia in August.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



eight months from now. First on the list is the opening ceremony on Aug. 27 at the Stade Numa Daly in Noumea. The closing ceremony will take place at the Hippodrome Henri Mil-

Cote Blanche in Noumea will host the nine-day competition in sailing (Aug. 29-Sept. 7), while golf will be played for four days (Aug. 31 to Sept. 3).

Table tennis' preliminary games will take place at the Salle Omnisports Anse-Vata in Noumea from Aug. 31 to Sept. 6. The second venue is the Salle Omnisports in Koumac. Lawn tennis will also have two venues—Tennis Ouen Toro in Noumea

See SCHEDULE on Page 26

Thea thankful for second chance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor left Saipan yesterday

for a second tour of duty with the Pacific Oceania Team that will compete in a series of tournaments in Australia next month.



From Saipan, Minor will have a stopover in Guam where she will meet teammate Chloe Gadsen. From Guam, the two junior netters will head to Fiji to join the rest of the members of the Pacific Oceania Touring Team. The group will then leave Suva this Friday and go to Melbourne to start its three-tournament series.

"I am very grateful to the Oceania Tennis Federation for giving me another chance to be part of the team and compete in Australia again. Making it to the team this year will give me an opportunity to play better and surpass my previous performance in the same tournaments," Minor said.



"I will do my best to produce good results and not waste this great opportunity," the Saipan Southern High School freshman said.

It will be the second straight time that Minor will not be able to spend the New Year with her family, but she believed it is worth the sacrifice, as it's not everyday that a junior player like her gets a chance to compete against some of the best junior players in Australia and New Zealand.

"These tournaments will really help improve my game. Though we have many tournaments here and in Guam, it is still different when you get to play against other players from Oceania," she added.

First stop for Minor will be the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club. The tournament in Shepparton, Victoria will run from Jan. 2 to 6.

Last year, the Shepparton tournament was still known as 2010 Ducats GV Championships, the 15-year-old netter dropped her opening game in the main draw and dropped to the consolation bracket. She made the finals of the consolation draw, but

See THEA on Page 26

Thea Minor poses at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport before leaving the CNMI yesterday to compete in Australia.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Diamond's Bruce Berline is sandwiched by Noni Saipan's Kae Bernardo, left, and Bart Demapan during the inaugural season of the UBA caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Docomo Pacific/UBA caging kicks off Jan. 17

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2011 Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League will kick off on Jan. 17 with four matches to be played in the opening day at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The league's kick-off date will coincide with the Martin Luther King Day, a CNMI holiday, so as a treat to fans, "Unified Basketball Association is having four games instead of its usual two-game

schedule per play date," said UBA president James Lee.

An opening ceremony will take place at 1pm, followed by the first match of the season at 2:30pm. The second game is set for 4:30pm, the third at 6:30pm and last at 8pm.

Since nine teams are entered in the second edition of the UBA caging, one will not be able to see action in the opening day and will have its debut match on Jan. 19 at 6:30pm.

See DOCOMO on Page 26



By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2nd Annual Budweiser Chamolinian Softball Association's 2011 Slow-Pitch Softball League is set to start on Jan. 28, 2011 with an opening ceremony followed by a set of three games at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

In addition, the league's first coaches meeting is scheduled next Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011 beginning 6:30pm at the

Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium where a general overview of the rules and schedule will be discussed.

This year the league will consist of 15 men's teams that will be competing separately from a new five-team women's division.

The women's games will be played on Monday and Friday nights at 7:30pm.

The men's division is scheduled for 6:30pm and 8:30pm on Mondays and Fridays, with three games featured on Wednesdays that start hourly from

See CHAMOLINIAN on Page 26

The Chamolinian Softball Association's 2011 Slow-Pitch Softball League will have both men's and women's divisions when it kicks off next month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO